FRIDAY
March 3, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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G20 भारत 2023 INDIA वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Karnataka Home Department makes major strides in development.

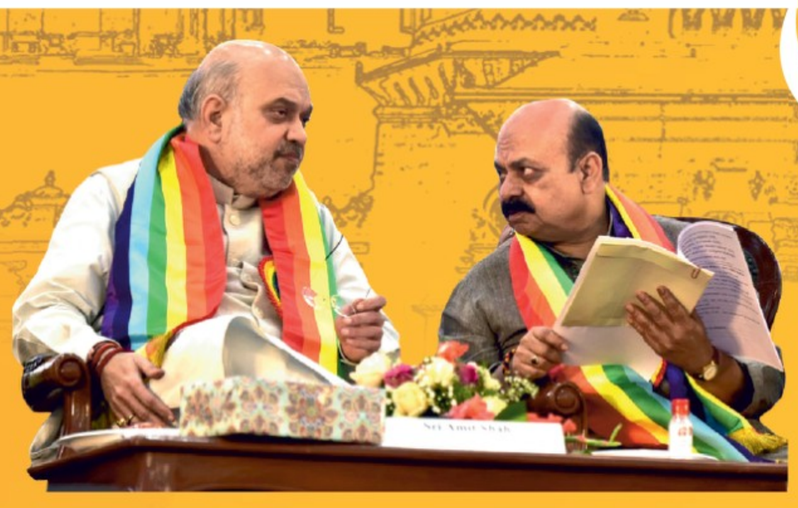
Significant steps for Women Safety and a Safe Bengaluru

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

SAFE CITY Bengaluru

Phase -1 Going Live Today

₹632 crore scheme for Women Safety



Dedicated by

Shri Amit Shah

Hon'ble Union Minister for Home and Cooperation

3rd March, 2023
Friday @ 8.00 PM
Venue: Town Hall Bengaluru

Key Features of Safe City Project

- 3,000 Strategic Locations
- 50 Safety Islands
- 6,300 Fixed Cameras

- Mobile Forensic Vans
- Counseling Centres
- Rani Chennamma Pade

- 800 PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) Cameras
- 400 High Resolution Cameras
- 560 Body Worn Cameras

- Mobile Command and Control Vehicle
- Dial 112 (Emergency Response System)
- Live Feed to Command Centres and Police Stations

Major Strides in Home Dept. during the last 3 years

- In the last three years, 16,811 posts have been filled in the police department.
- Grants provided to build 10,000 residential houses under the Police Housing Scheme.
- 8 Forensic Science Laboratories have been set up to facilitate effective and expeditious investigation in criminal cases.
- Four new jails are being constructed with a Rs. 410 crore grant to reduce prison overcrowding.
- The Dept. has launched Prison Development Board to strengthen the manufacturing industry using the skills of prison inmates.
- The insurance sum for officers and staff of the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.
- A 90-meter aerial ladder platform vehicle, the highest in the country for fire fighting and rescue operations, has been purchased at a cost of Rs. 31 crore.
- Approval to set up New SDRF unit in Davanagere
- In collaboration with the Skill Development Department, prisoners are trained in various skills.

Significant Strides in State in Forensic Science since 2019

- State Forensic Science Laboratory's advanced facility built at a cost of Rs. 30 crore in Bengaluru was inaugurated in 2020.
- Sanctioning of two state-of-the-art forensic science laboratories in Ballari and Hubballi. Both became operational in 2022.
- Due to the special attention given to increasing the capability of forensic science laboratories in the state, pending cases have come down by 42% annually.
- Rs. 5.6 crore grant for construction of buildings to improve the infrastructure of regional forensic science laboratories
- Recruitment of 54 scientific officers and 40 other technical staff in 2021
- Development of Forensic Science Laboratory Management System Software and its adoption all over the state

Major announcements in Budget 2023-24 to strengthen police system & for police welfare

BUDGET 2023-24

- Rs 450 crore for the construction of 3,000 police quarters
- Four new Traffic Police Stations have been started in Bengaluru City. 9 Police Stations, 5 Traffic Police Stations and 6 Women Police Stations would be established in the City
- 2,000 new posts would be created to strengthen the policing capacity in the City.
- The honorarium of home guards increased by Rs.100 per day.
- Rs. 10 crore to establish Forensic Science Laboratories in Tumakuru and Shivamogga
- Establishment of Forensic Science University in Dharwad
- Rs. 100 crore grant for various safety equipment under K-Safe 2

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

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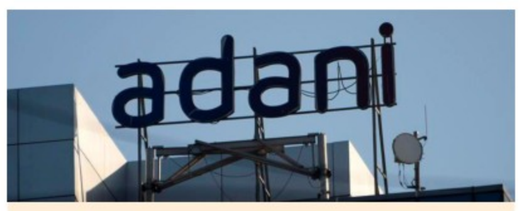
CONFLICT AND ETHICS

Positing India's stand on the Ukraine war

New Delhi should stick to its pragmatic neutrality

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10



ADANI ROW

SC sets up committee to probe stock meltdown

NEWS » PAGE 14

BJP, allies win Tripura, Nagaland; Meghalaya throws up hung verdict

Saffron party crosses majority mark in Tripura despite a surge by newcomer TIPRA Motha; it maintains tally in Nagaland and Meghalaya where NDPP and NPP emerge single-largest parties, respectively; Left Front suffers setback in Tripura

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies retained power in Tripura and Nagaland, while in Meghalaya, the National People's Party (NPP) emerged as the single largest party.

The results show that voters in these northeastern States have largely rejected calls for a change. The polls were seen as a litmus test for the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

In Tripura, the BJP and its ally, the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura, won 33 seats – 11 fewer than in 2018 but two more than the majority mark. The TIPRA Motha, which banked on the 'Tiprasa' (tribal) people who dominate 20 seats, won 13 of the 42 seats it contested. The Left Front suffered a setback with its seat count falling to 11 from 16 five years ago.

In Nagaland, the BJP and its dominant regional ally, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), had it fairly easy – the State has been virtually without any Opposition for a long time. While the BJP maintained its 2018 seat count with 12 seats, the NDPP increased its tally to 25 from 17 in five years. The Congress, once a formidable force, failed to open its account a second time.

Meghalaya did not deviate from the "tradition" of giving a fractured mandate barring its first Assembly poll in 1972. But it reposed its faith in the NPP led by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma despite the party facing a barrage of corruption charges from friends and rivals alike.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 13

No surprises in the northeast

BJP and its allies came up trumps in Nagaland and Tripura while NPP was single largest party in Meghalaya. INC did better in bypolls

Vote-puller: Tripura CM Manik Saha after winning the Assembly election.

Meghalaya

Party	Seat tally
NPP	26
UDP	11
INC	5
BJP	2
Others	15
Total seats	**59**

Nagaland

Party/ alliance	Seat tally
NDPP+BJP	37
NPP	5
NPF	2
Others	16
Total seats	**60**

Tripura

Party/ alliance	Seat tally
BJP+	33

Party/alliance	Seat tally
Left+INC	14
TIPRA	13
Total seats	**60**

Assembly bypolls: Congress flipped two seats from the Trinamool Congress and the BJP for wins in West Bengal and Maharashtra

State	Assembly constituency	Party won	Gains (G)/ Holds (H)
Arunachal Pradesh	Lumla	BJP	H
Jharkhand	Ramgarh	AJSU	G
Tamil Nadu	Erode (East)	INC	H
West Bengal	Sagardighi	INC	G
Maharashtra	Kasba Peth	INC	G
Maharashtra	Chinchwad	BJP	H

NEARBY

Kaveri-2 to be adopted across State in 3 months

BENGALURU
Kaveri-2, a software designed to prevent multiple registration of the same property and other fraudulent transactions, will be adopted by all sub-registrar offices in Karnataka within three months. » Page 8

Rates of food items in small eateries hiked

BENGALURU
Following the hike in the price LPG cylinders, many small eateries in the city, such as darshinis and mobile canteens, have marginally increased prices of food items, while others are mulling a hike.

» Page 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Civic budget focuses on augmenting infrastructure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days before elections to the State Assembly, the civic budget for Bengaluru was presented on Thursday, focussing on augmenting infrastructure and reviving the social welfare agenda in the city.

This is the third consecutive year officials presented the civic budget without an elected council. It will likely be revised if the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party doesn't return to power in May 2023.

Jayaram Raipura, Special Commissioner (Finance), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, who presented the budget in Town Hall, termed it an "Atma Nirbhar Budget". The revenue surplus budget, with an outlay of ₹11,163.97 crore, has an ambitious target of mobilising ₹7,070.11 crore from its own resources, reducing reliance on State government grants to 37% of the total outlay, the lowest since at least 2016-17.

However, the budget uses a whopping ₹1,375 crore towards cost escalation of projects, coming amidst allegations by opposition Congress that the BJP-ruled State government was resorting to inflating project costs, which they claimed indicated corruption.

Amidst civic opposition to flyovers in the city, the budget proposes five new flyovers – four in North Bengaluru and one to improve access to the newly opened Sir M. Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal in Baiyappanahalli.

For the past three years, many welfare schemes had taken a back seat due to the pandemic, revived during 2022-23 and now proposed to be expanded in 2023-24.

DETAILS
» PAGE 4

Budget at a glance

Total outlay ₹11,157 crore

Revenue expenditure ₹4,400 crore	Revenue surplus ₹6.14 crore
Capital expenditure ₹6,264 crore	
Extraordinary expenditure ₹493 crore	

Channagiri MLA's son trapped by Lokayukta

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta sleuths on Thursday trapped the chief accountant of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) while he was allegedly receiving bribe of ₹40 lakh on behalf of his father who is an MLA and also chairman of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL).

The accused Prashanth, a KAS officer and son of BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa from Channagiri constituency, Davangere district, had allegedly demanded ₹81 lakh on behalf of his father to grant a tender to procure raw material for KSDL. Prashanth was caught while he was receiving ₹40 lakh cash, which were brought in many bags, officials said.

Prashanth

Based on a complaint, a team of officials raided the MLA's office. Both father and son have been booked. "The bribe has been received on behalf of the chairman, KSDL for raw material procurement tender," officials said.

Officials also found some unaccounted for cash worth ₹2 crore besides the bribe amount. Investigation is on.

Panel of PM, CJI, Oppn. leader to pick CEC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday directed in a landmark judgment that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners will be appointed by the President on the advice tendered by a committee of Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the single largest party in Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
PARTIES HAIL VERDICT
» PAGE 12

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Sri B.S.Narayan
03-03-1932

You will live forever in our hearts
Your ideals are always there as beacons of inspiration

Fondly Remembered by :
Dr.B. S. Ragini Narayan
Donor Trustee & Chairperson, BMS Educational Trust
Life Trustee, BMS Hospital Trust

State to soon begin mental health screening of pregnant women as part of antenatal check-up

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Come April 1, the State Health Department will start screening nearly 10 lakh pregnant women for mental health issues too as part of routine health check-up. The department has now included mental health screening questions in the "Thayi" card used for recording a pregnant woman's health status throughout the pregnancy.

Karnataka is the first State in the country to start this initiative under Matru Chaitanya, a scheme that provides counselling for pregnant and lactating women. Thayi cards are issued to women seeking maternity services through the public healthcare system.

Karnataka is the first in the country to start this initiative.

Two questions

The screening questions have been drawn up in consultation with Prabha S. Chandra, Dean and Professor of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, and her team. "Have you suffered from or were treated for any mental health issues in the past?" and "Of late, have you been experiencing stress, anxiety, fear or sadness?" are the two screening questions listed in the 40-page Thayi card booklet. If the answer to any of the two questions is a "yes", the healthcare workers are expected to note it and ensure that the women are counselled and given help to seek treatment.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said, "Apart from mental health screening tool, we also have a provision for Hemoglobin charting during the nine months, a provision to denote high-risk pregnancy status just by looking at the card itself (by pasting red colour flag for high risk and green for low risk or no risk on the cover page). In case of the mitigation of the risk factor, the green colour flag could be pasted over the red."

Rajkumar N., State Deputy Director (Maternal Health), said the new cards have been distributed in seven districts. "We will complete distribution in the remaining districts in another fortnight, and the mental health screening will begin on April 1. Depression is also associated with lower quality of life during pregnancy, and untreated mental health issues can have adverse effects on both the mother and the child," the doctor said.

Rajani Parthasarathy, State Deputy Director, (Mental Health), said "Perinatal depression affects nearly 20 out of every 100 women, who are under stress due to various reasons during pregnancy and post-delivery. This is also due to hormonal changes in the body."

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Right Bank Canal Division, Holenarasipura - 573211

Short term Tender Notification No. 21/2022-23
Dated: 16.02.2023 Second call Dated: 02.03.2023

Item ratetender is invited through e-procurement portal only for the below mentioned work in two cover system as per KW-3 Format by the Executive Engineer, HemavathyRight Bank canal Division, Holenarasipura Hassan Dist., Karnataka State on behalf of the Managing Director, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore from the eligible Contractors of KPWD/CPWD/Other Public Sector Organizations. The details of events are below. 1.Tender processing charges (in Rs.) :Refer as per e-Procurement. 2.The contractor can have access to e-tender document from 02.03.2023 to 09.03.2023up to 4.00 pm. 3.Last date for submission of tender is 09.03.2023up to 4.00 pm. 4.Cover –I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi right bank canal division Holenarasipuraon 13.03.2023at 11.00 AM. 5.Cover –II (Financial bid)14.03.2023 or after approval of technical bid. 6.No. of work: 4 Packageworks 7.Nature of work: CC road and drain, Temple works 8.Cost of work: Varying from Rs. 67.59lakhs to Rs. 80.35 lakhs 9.EMD: Varying from Rs. 1.35lakhs to Rs. 1.61 lakhs 10.Class of Contractor:Class-III and above. Note:- 1.The under signed reserves rights to reject or accept the tenders at any time without giving any reasons. 2.The amount put to tender is subject to variation and the details of tender can be had in the e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, HRBC Division, Holenarasipura

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/1167/2022–23

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ತುಮಕೂರು

Office of the Deputy Director, Dept. of Mines and Geology, Tumkur-572104
Khanija Bhavan, Spoorthi Layout, Baddihalli, Ring Road, Tumkur Tel:0816-2955761, E mail Id: dmgtumkur@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಭೂಇ/ಉನಿತು/ಕ&ಮ್ಯಾ/ಅದಿರು/ಇ–ಹರಾಜು/ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ–01/2022–23
ದಿನಾಂಕ27.02.2023

e-AUCTION PUBLICATION

Invites the applications for e-auction of Iron & Manganese Ore Seized in expired/determined mining leases and various places of Chikknayakanahalli, Gubbi & Tiptur Taluks of Tumkur District on "As is where is Basis". Interested Individual/companies/firm can participate by registering themselves. E-Auction No: MSTC/BLR/Office of the Deputy Director Department of Mines and Geology/1 to14/Tumkur/22-23/42049 to 42062]. Auction documents and annexures can be downloaded from the MSTC website https://www.mstcecommerce.com. Before participation, read the terms & conditions of e-auction and confirming the quantity and quality of Iron/ Manganese Ore upload the application by paying Pre-bid EMD. Live bidding is scheduled on 14.03.2023, 15.03.2023 & 16.03.2023. Application and Bids shall be submitted through MSTC platform only.
For any information regarding registration/e-auction contact MSTC office 080-22260054/22266417/ 22379145 & e-mail:tejasv@mstcindia.co.in.

Sd/-Deputy Director & Member Secretary
District Task Force (Mines) Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/1020/KSMCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:SEE/TWM/SMG/EE(O)/AEEE-1/2022-23/F/9043-50 Date: 01.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement mode only)

K.P.T.C.L. invites tenders through e-Procurement mode from the reputed Electrical Contractors possessing Super Grade Electrical contractor License having PF registration for the following works.

1) Tender No: KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT10436 for **Replacement of existing 1X10MVA, 110/11kV power transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV power transformer at 110/11kV Sub-station, Ajjampura in Ajjampura Taluk in Chikkamagaluru District on Partial Turnkey Basis (Allied Works Only).**

2) Tender No:KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT10437 for **Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11 kV Power Transformerby 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11 kV Power Transformer at 66/11 kV MALLAPURA Sub-Station in Bhadravathi Taluk, Shivamogga District on Partial Turnkey Basis (Allied Works Only).**

For detailed Information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please visit our website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink **"e-procurement"** or directly you can access the tendering **website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.00 a.m. on 03.03.2023.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, MRS Colony, Shivamogga, Phone: 08182-272624.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby notified that, **Mrs. S. Savitha** W/o. Basavaraj B. A, has represented to my client that she is the absolute owner and in lawful possession of the Schedule Property and offered to sell the same to my client. Meanwhile, I have been instructed to issue this Public Notice to call for objections from person/s who may be interested in the Schedule Property or any portion thereof or having any claims against, Smt. S. Savitha or opposing sale thereof.

Therefore, any person/s, financial institutions having any interest in the Schedule Property or any portion thereof or intending to oppose the sale of the Schedule Property or any portion thereof to third parties, may forward their written objections with supporting documents to the undersigned, within **SEVEN days** from the date of publication hereof for scrutiny. Any objections received thereafter will not be considered and my client would proceed with the completion of the sale, as if there are no third-party claims or interest, and if any, are deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted land measuring 3 acres 18 guntas (including 0-12 guntas kharab) situated at Sy. No. 37 of Chikkasulikere Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District, and bounded on the:

East by : Sy. No. 82 belonging to Shri. Shivakumar
West by : Ramnagar-Magadi Main Road
North by : Gramatana & Sy. No. 36 belonging to Homalaiah
South by : Sy. No. 40 & land of Shri. Guruvaiah

Prakash T. Hebbar, Advocate,
SF-17, 2nd Floor, HHMS Building,
Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.
Ph: 08022248485 Mobile:9916317050
Bengaluru, Date: 2-3-2023

Government of Karnataka

KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY

Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560012.
Phone: 080-23460460 (5 Lines)
E-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No: ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-12/2022-23 **Date: 01-03-2023**

CET - 2023 - ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

1) As per Rule 3, Rule 6(3) & Rule 7 of **Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments)** and pursuant to the directions of the Government, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is inviting applications from the eligible Karnataka Candidates including the ward/s of Jammu & Kashmiri migrants for conduct of **"Common Entrance Test-2023"** as per the following time table for the purpose of determining the eligibility / merit, for admission to the First year or First semester of full time courses for Government share of seats in Engineering, Technology, Naturopathy & Yoga, B. Pharma, 2nd year B. Pharma and Pharma-D, Agriculture courses (Farm Science) and Veterinary courses, in Government / University / Private Aided / Private Un-Aided Professional Educational Institutions in the State of Karnataka for the academic year 2023-24 as per the seat matrix to be notified by Government.
2) In order to become eligible to obtain admission through KEA to the above mentioned professional courses, a candidate must register for CET-2023, fill the application through online, pay the application fees, download the admission ticket and appear for the Common Entrance Test-2023 conducted by KEA, Bangalore.
3) For admission to **Medical or Dental or Ayurveda or Unani or Homoeopathy** courses, candidates must compulsorily qualify in the **UGNEET - 2023 (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test)** exam conducted by National Testing Agency.
4) For admission to **Architecture** course, candidates should appear and get qualified in **NATA - 2023 (National Aptitude Test in Architecture)** conducted by the Council of Architecture. (Further the candidates must compulsorily register for CET-2023, fill the application through online and pay the application fees.)
5) **Eligibility:** As per Rule 5(1) of **Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments),** No candidate shall be eligible for admission to Government Seats unless he is a citizen of India and satisfies any one of the eligibility conditions specified therein. The candidates who do not satisfy any of the Clauses / Eligibility Criteria are not eligible for admission to professional courses under Government quota seats through KEA.
6) UGCET-2023-Information Bulletin consisting of details about mode of submission of application through online, eligibility clauses, academic eligibility criteria etc will be hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates. Candidates can download the same from KEA Website. **Candidates have to apply online for admission to various Professional Courses through KEA.**
7) Schedule for online application - payment of fees.

i	Commencement of Registration and filling of Application Online for CET-2023	**From 11.00 am on 02-03-2023**
ii	Last date to fill the application online	**05-04-2023 upto 11.59 pm**
iii	Last date to pay the application fees - online	**07-04-2023**
iv	Downloading of Admission Tickets for CET-2023	**From 11.00 a.m. on 05-05-2023**

AGRICULTURIST QUOTA - Schedule for Verification of documents and time table for Practical examination will be published on the KEA Website in due course

Common Entrance Test - 2023 Time Table

Date	Day	Timings	Subject	Marks
20-05-2023	SATURDAY	10.30 AM - 11.50 AM	Biology	60
		02.30 PM - 03.50 PM	Mathematics	60
21-05-2023	SUNDAY	10.30 AM - 11.50 AM	Physics	60
		02.30 AM - 03.50 PM	Chemistry	60

Kannada Language Test
FOR HORANADU AND GADINADU KANNADIGA CANDIDATES
at Bengaluru, Bidar, Belagavi, Ballary, Bijapura, Mangalore Districts only

22-05-2023	MONDAY	11.30 AM - 12.30 PM	4th Standard level	50

NOTE:

1) The question papers of the Common Entrance Test-2023 will be based on the First and Second PUC syllabi prescribed by the Department of Pre-University Education of Karnataka State.
2) A candidate who had obtained a seat in any discipline through KEA (CET Cell) in any of the previous years and not surrendered the seat before the last date fixed for entry of options for final round of seat allotment for the respective disciplines will not be eligible for allotment of a seat to the same discipline during 2023. However, he / she is eligible to appear for CET-2023 for allotment of seat in any other discipline as per rule 15 (5) of Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules, 2006.
3) Academic Eligibility / admissions to Colleges / Seat Allotments made to and by the colleges shall be subject to rules /conditions specified from time to time / approval by MCI, DCI, AICTE, COA, NCISM, NCH, PCI, Government, University, Apex Bodies, etc.
4) If it is found that, if a candidate has filled multiple application then such candidate's candidature will be liable for rejection.
5) Candidates are deemed to have read, agreed and accepted the Information Bulletin and the terms and conditions in the Information Bulletin for UGCET-2023 on completing the online submission of application form.
6) Candidates can clarify their doubts regarding filling of application online by sending mail to **KEA email keaugcet2023@gmail.com**

Sd/-
(S. Ramya, IAS)
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/5049/2022-23

For more details candidates are requested to visit KEA Website: **http://kea.kar.nic.in**
KEA Helpline Nos.: **080-23 460 460 (Five Lines) 9.30 AM to 6.00 PM (except General Holidays)**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಹಾಸನ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಯುಷ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಹೊಸಲೈನ್ ರೋಡ್, ಹಾಸನ–573201

E-mail: dao.hassan09@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:08172–272272
No: DAOH/23/Man Power/2022-23 Dated: 28.02.2023

Short term E-Tender

Ayush Department Hassan Inviting tender for Providing Man power service on outsource contract basis for a period of 01 year from Registered Agencies through E-procurement portal. Online tender application available in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from Date: 28.02.2023 to Date: 08.03.2023., for any other queries regarding tender will be contact website or District Ayush office. The Estimated amount of the tender is Rs.90 lakhs.

Sd/- District Ayush Office, Hassan

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/1163/2022–23

Government of Karnataka

Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur

Short Term tender Notification (Through e-procurement)
IFT No.22/2022-23 Date: 24-02-2023

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for building works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents KW-4" from the eligible registered Class-1 Contactors under PWD through e-procurement. Tender documents is downloaded from the e-procurement website D:24.02.2023 And Last date for submission of filled tender documents is d: 10.03.2023 upto 16.00 Hours. Amount put to tender Rs.**1486.82** Lakhs and EMD amount of Rs.**15.00** Lakhs, Period for completion of works (including monsoon): **11-Months** For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Hunsur.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1100/2022-23

ZILLA PANCHAYATH OFFICE TUMKUR DISTRICT, Karnataka-572101

No:Tender/5percent/Shortterm/2022-23 Dated:24.2.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registered, Eligible suppliers/Non-Governmental Organization who are registered, For Supply of Aids & Appliances toTumakuru district as described in the schedule of requirements.

1	Tender Reference No	As Per e-Proc
2	Tender Amount	2.00 Crore (Approximate)
3	Date of Commencement of Tender	24.02.2023
4	Last date and time for Submission of Tender	10.03.2023 4.00pm
5	Date and time of Opening of Technical Bid	15.03.2023 12.00pm
6	Date and time Opening of opening of Financial Bid	20.03.2023 12.30pm
7	EMD Ampunt	Rs.4,00,000/-
8	Venue of opening of tenders & address fo communication	Planning Section Zilla Panchayat, Tumakuru District, Tumakuru-572101 Phone: 0816- 2254297

Interested eligible suppliers or manufacturers those who are registered in portal bidders can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Accounts Officer, Zilla Panchayat Office, Tumakuru

DIPR/TUM/1025/MCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bidar District, Bidar-585401, Telephone No: 08482-229332, Fax No: 08482-225262
E-Mail: itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com

No: DUDC/NAG-4(5% inc/CR-2/2022-23 Dated: 01-03-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of work Bidar CMC : 1) DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT146401, 2) DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT147835, under Amrut Nagarothana Phase-4 (5% incentive) scheme, 2) Estimated cost: As per e-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant: As per e-portal, 4) EMD amount: As per e-portal, 5) Pre bid meeting date 06-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, 6) Last date for submission of tender: 09-03-2023 upto 04.30 PM, 7) Technical bid opening: 10-03-2023 at 05.00 PM, 8) Address for communication: Executive Engineer DUDC Bidar, DC Office Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email : itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com, 08482-229332, 9) Website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/500/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer DUDC Bidar

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NEELAWATHI M, W/o K.Munisamy Ex-Army No.10358498, Rank L/Nk, R/a D.No.59, Katthadikuppam Village, Elatthagiri Post, Bargur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Pin-635108, hereby state that my name has been wrongly mentioned as M.Nerlavathi in my Husband's service records but my correct name is Neelawathi M vide affidavit dt: 20.02.2023 sworn before Notary N.R.Ranganathan, Krishnagiri

I, VIJAY H Sankar, S/o S Harihara Iyer, R/a No.A1-502, Whitehouse Apartment, 6th Main, 15th Cross, RT Nagar, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to Vijay Harihara Iyer Sankar vide affidavit dt: 02.03.2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'lore

I, ANAND H Krishnan, S/o S Harihara Iyer, R/a No.A1-502, Sriram Whitehouse, 6th Main, 15th Cross, 2nd Block, RT Nagar, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to Anand Harihara Iyer Krishnan vide affidavit dt: 02.03.2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'lore

I, HARSHPRATIK Singh, R/at Flat No.103c, Balaji Fortune, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Babanagar, Kottigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063 have changed my name from Harshpratik Singh to Harsh Pratik Singh vide affidavit dated 14-02-2023 before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bengaluru.

I, DIVANSHU Pratiksh Singh, R/at Flat No.103, Balaji Fortune, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Babunagar, Kottigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063 have changed my name from Divanshu Pratiksh Singh to Divyanshu Pratikh Singh vide affidavit dated 30-01-2023 before Notary H.Sridhar Rao, Bengaluru.

I, PRSIHMITA Bhuyan spouse of Manoj Bhuyan, R/at SMQ 369/01, Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063 have changed my name from Prsihmita Bhuyan to Parishmita Bhuyan vide affidavit dated 30-01-2023 before Notary H.Sridhar Rao, Bengaluru.

I, KOTHAPALLI Madhukar Davidson Resident of Golden Jubilee Airforce Officers Enclave, Artillery Road, Jeevan Kendra Layout, Jogupalya, Bengaluru-560007 have changed my name from Kothapalli Madhukar Davidson to Kumar Madhukar David vide affidavit No. IN-KA99321624159898V dated 02-03-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed at Bengaluru.

BUSINESS OFFERS

Wanted Partner
Looking for Partner to run Play School near Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore.
Contact: 9606200972

SITUATION VACANT

COMPUTERS – IT

DOT(.) NET Programmer wanted with Min. 5yrs Experience. Ct. 9840864528

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HONOURABLE COURT OF THE X ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE VISAKHAPATNAM AT ANAKAPALLI, ANDHRA PRADESH
M.O.P.No.470/2022

Between:
Vegi Tulasi and another .....Petitioner

And:
Raman Selvaraj and others ... Respondents

To – R2
R.Sampath Kumar, S/o. Rathinam, Hindu, Aged not known to the petitioners but major, Owner of lorry bearing no. KA 01 AG 1507, R/o No. 23, 1st Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pin: 560018, Phone: 9486002241

NOTICE

Please take notice that the petitioner herein filed the above M.O.P. against you in the above named Court and the Honourable court posted to **Date: 29-03-2023** for your appearance at about 10.30a.m. in the above court either in person or through your advocate, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

(BY ORDER)
M.A.S.NAIDU, K.S.R.MURTY
Advocates for Petitioners (Andhra Pradesh)

TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF PRINTED BOOKS

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Description
1.	Tender No.: CMD/PROC/02/2302 for Supply of Printed Books on Entrepreneurship to the Resource Centre of Kerala Institute for Entrepreneurship Development (KIED), EMD: Rs.6250, Tender Fee: Rs. 1,500

Tenders available at: https://kcmd.in/tenders/. **Due date for submission is March 12, 2023. The tender opening date is March 13, 2023 3.30 pm if possible.**

Director,
Centre for Management Development

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

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KERALA SAMAJAM IAS ACADEMY, BENGALURU
A Social Mission of Bengaluru Kerala Samajam
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(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
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E-TENDER NOTICE
P1/226/2022-23 3.3.2023

E-Tenders are invited for supplying 3000 tons of Rubber Fire Wood & 360 tons of Fire briquettes required for Boiler at Oushadhi factory. Tender forms can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. For more details visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our purchase division at Kuttanellur.

(Sd/-) Managing Director

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, N DEEPA, W/O Rohan P Fernandes, born on 11/04/1983, residing at 101 Aries apt, Khojgaon, Ambernath (W) 421501, have changed my name to DEEPA ROHAN FERNANDES vide affidavit dated 11 Oct 2022, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra.

PUBLIC NOTICE

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
CIN: U92411TN1934NPL000349
Regd. Office: 63, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002
Phone: 044-28584353 Fax: 044-28414356
E-mail: cosmonetcentre@gmail.com
Website: www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com

NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 25th March 2023 at 04:30 p.m. to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the EGM.

Notice dated 24.2.2023 was dispatched to all members by Registered Post /Courier on3rd March 2023.

The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Sec.108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/s Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K.M.Subheramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 22.03.2023 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 24.03.2023 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5.00 PM on 24.03.2023. During this period, Members whose name appear in the Register of Members as on 05.03.2023 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process.

Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting can exercise their right to vote at the meeting. The facility for voting by manual ballot will be made available at the meeting venue.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43.

/ By order of the Executive Committee /

Place: Chennai K Sundareswaran
Date: 03.03.2023 President

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division No-2 Babaleshwar- 586 113.
Phone:08355-283011
E-mail ID: eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/MLID-2/PB-4/Escape/Maintenance /2022-23 /2078 Date:27.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL MLI Division No – 2 Babaleshwar, the under signed invites **tender on percentage basis** from eligible contractors for the works of 1] Construction of Escape Canal along Domanal Road up to Kannur Bandara of Tidagundi branch canal off Taking at Ch: 38+900km under Mulwad LIS stage III (Including CD Works) **[Indent No.21975]** Amount put to tender for Rs.119.48 Lakhs –[Two cover] 2] Maintenance of main canal water management from Km 30.00 to 78.060 and Dy. No. 12 to 43 of MLIs west canal for the Year 2022-23 **[Indent No.23602]** Amount put to tender for Rs.50.04 Lakhs

Issue and submission of E-tender documents

1] The Contractor can have access to e-tender document from **28.02.2023 to 10.03.2023** up to 5.00 PM. 2] A pre-bid conference will held on **06.03.2023** at 11.00 AM at the office of Executive Engineer, KBJNL MLI Division No 2, Babaleshwar, Dist:Vijayapur. The bidders shall submit their queries if any for clarifications on or before **06.03.2023** up 10.00am positively through following e-mail. eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com 3] Cover-1 [Technical bid] will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL MLI Division No.2 Babaleshwar **on 13.03.2023 at 11.00 AM.**

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division-2, Babaleshwar

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/960/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

Jobs of 11,307 pourakarmikas regularised

Pourakarmikas had staged a protest in front of the BBMP head office earlier this week demanding job regularisation. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Government issues order for creation of supernumerary posts; pourkarmikara sangha is not entirely happy with the order as it excludes drivers and helpers

After much deliberation, the Basavaraj Bommai-led State government on Thursday issued an order to give permanent job status to 11,307 pourakarmikas who are working under the Direct Payment System (DPS) in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Earlier this week, pourakarmikas had staged a protest in front of the BBMP head office demanding regularisation of jobs.

Although there were only around 3,600 sanctioned permanent posts before, the new order states that supernumerary posts should be created to accommodate the remaining 11,307 sanitation workers. After massive protests in July 2022 demanding that all the 15,000 DPS employees should be made permanent, Mr. Bommai had given a written assurance that the jobs of all the pourakarmikas would be regularised. However, in September last year, a government draft proposed that jobs of only 3,673 pourakarmikas should be made permanent.

The order comes ahead of the Legislative Assembly polls for which the government is trying to woo all sections of society. It also has to be noted that the order came on the same day when an announcement was made in the BBMP Budget that while jobs of 3,673 DPS employees working in solid waste management were made permanent, the remaining 11,710 workers would also be recruited as permanent employees soon.

However, the BBMP Pourkarmikara Sangha is not entirely happy with the order as it has excluded drivers and helpers. "This entire process has happened only through the struggle of the pourakarmikas. This order also came only after their protests on Monday and Tuesday even though it should have been passed in September 2022 itself," said Maitreyi Krishnan of the sangha.

"The primary demand was that all pourakarmikas should be made permanent employees and yet drivers and helpers will still be under contract basis. They should also be given permanent jobs. The Chief Minister had assured in July 2022 about housing, medical, and other facilities for the workers which should also be provided," she added. She said that the regularisation process should be conducted smoothly with no room for bribe or corruption.

The order also states that supernumerary posts should be created for 132 pourakarmikas under CMC, TMC, and PPs and also for 1,433 workers under the city corporation.

LPG price hike triggers increase in rates of food items in small eateries

Though Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association had said there would be no hike in the price of food items, those running small eateries say they will incur losses if they do not up the rates

Pavana J. and Nivetha C.
BENGALURU

Regular customers at eateries were surprised on Thursday when the prices of food items, and coffee and tea were increased by ₹2 to ₹5. FILE PHOTO

Following the hike in the price LPG cylinders, many small eateries in the city, such as darshinis and mobile canteens, have marginally increased prices of food items, while others are mulling a hike. This is even as they fear losing customers. Even though the Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association (BBHA) had said there would be no hike in the price of food items, those running small eateries say they will have to incur huge losses if they do not increase rates.

Mohammed Ashraf, owner of a roadside canteen in Peenya Industrial Area, said, "The only way we can run our business now is by increasing the prices of all our items at the expense of losing our customers even if we do not want to. The government has left us no choice. We face a loss of ₹5,000 every month because of LPG price alone." He recalled a time 16 years ago when he started his canteen. He said LPG cylinders at the time cost around ₹300 to ₹400, but as time passed by, the price has only increased, and now it costs ₹1,103.

Lalitha T. runs a small canteen in the same area. She said this hike in cylinder price would cost her a lot as she believes that increasing prices of the food items would only drive away her customers to places that sell the same items at a lesser rate. "How are we going to survive? There is nothing we can do to make things better for our customers or for ourselves until the government understands our problems," she lamented.

Regular customers at such eateries were also surprised on Thursday when the prices of food items, and coffee and tea were increased by ₹2 to ₹5. "I have coffee at a darshini in J.P. Nagar every day. A few months back, they increased the price from ₹10 to ₹12 per cup. This morning they said the price was ₹14. We cannot cut down on having coffee or tea, but it is also difficult to keep up with the increasing rates," said Yashwanth M., a cab driver.

Those who run slightly bigger hotels said they would lose more than ₹10,000 every month even if they hike the rates on their menu. Subarao, who manages a popular darshini near Shivajinagar, said, "My expenses for just gas is about ₹21,000 a month, and that is only going to get worse from now. It is almost impossible for us to recover that amount even if we increase the prices of all the items on our menu."

He added that he would wait for the decision taken by the BBHA before making any big changes to the menu.

Traffic advisory for Amit Shah's visit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city traffic police have issued an advisory for motorists in view of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the city on Friday.

The traffic police have requested motorists to avoid the following roads: Devanahalli highway, Ballari Road, Hebbal junction, Mehkri Cirlce, Cauvery theatre junction, Ramana Maharshi Road, Raj Bhavan Road, Infantry Road, Cubbon Road, Nrupatunga Road, Queen's Road, Ambedkar Veedi, K.R. Circle, Police Corner, Hudson Circle, N.R. Junction, Town Hall junction, Gopala Gowda junction, Police Thimmaih junction, Trinity junction, HAL Airport Road, ASC Centre, ISRO junction, and S.D. Road between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The traffic police have also made alternative arrangements for the vehicles coming from Chickballapur and Doddaballupr towards the city and Hoskote and vice versa. Vehicles coming from Chickballapur towards the city should take the right turn or left turn at Nandi Cross at Devanahalli to proceed to Vishwanathapura, Doddaballapur, and Badabapte to reach Nelamangala.

Man kills wife, 2 minor daughters before trying to end life

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man suffering from a chronic ailment and alcoholism allegedly killed his wife and two minor daughters by giving them food laced with poison and later attempted to end his life at his house at Vaddarapalya in Konanakunte on Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Vijaya, 27, Deeksha, 7, and Nisha, 5. The accused, Nagendra, was found by his relative, rescued and admitted to a hospital, where he is recovering. According to the police, Nagendra, an autorickshaw driver, was diagnosed with cancer and kidney-related ailment and underwent surgery. Since then, he was not working, but started consuming alcohol and used to fight with his wife frequently.

Vijaya used to work as an assistant at a medical store. On Wednesday night, after a fight, the accused allegedly mixed rat poison in food and fed it to Vijaya and his daughters. The police found injury marks on the victims, which indicate that the accused had assaulted, a police officer said.

The Konanakunte police have registered a case of murder and attempt to suicide against Nagendra.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Ragpicker killed, three injured in attack

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old waste picker was bludgeoned to death while three others were injured when a 23-year-old hotel employee allegedly attacked them with a club over a trivial row on the footpath of Kapali galli in Majestic in the early hours of Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Sandeep. Shankar, Ravi, and Kencha sustained severe head injuries and are being treated at Victoria Hospital. According to the police, the victims are empty bottle collectors and also work as cleaners at a hotel and sleep on the footpath. The accused, Mohammed Tahsin, a native of Purnia district of Bihar, works as a cleaner at a hotel nearby.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (March 3, Friday), the following article is available:

- World Insight | The aftermath of Sri Lanka's economic crash. **bit.ly/srilankaeconomy**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAR. 03		
RISE	06:35	SET 18:29
RISE	15:13	SET 03:41
SATURDAY, MAR. 04		
RISE	06:34	SET 18:29
RISE	16:04	SET 04:26
SUNDAY, MAR. 05		
RISE	06:33	SET 18:29
RISE	16:54	SET 05:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	21
Mysuru	34	15
Bengaluru	31	18

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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Chemically modified nanosheets for biomedical applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers from the Department of Organic Chemistry and Materials Research Centre, IISc, in a recent study showed that surface modifications of two-dimensional molybdenum disulphide (2D-MoS2) nanosheets can make them highly effective for applications like delivering drugs to diseased cells.

In the new study, the researchers modified the surface of 2D-MoS2 nanosheets with thiol (sulphur-containing) ligands. They found that these thiols can be exchanged with naturally-occurring thiols in biological systems, which could allow drugs attached to these nanosheets to be released.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that my clients **MRS.SHWETA VENKATRAMAN HEGDE, Aadhar No.8731 5367 6757 and MR.KRISHNA GAONKAR, Aadhar No.3928 4612 8082,** Both are Residing at No.268, Dyuthi, Kanakanahalli, Kalleshwar Post, Ankola, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka – 581314, intends to purchase the schedule property from **SRI.B.V.GURUPRASAD,** S/o Late B.V.Murthy, Residing at No.106/B, "Sameera", Vinayaka Extension, K.G.Nagar, Bangalore – 560 019, Aadhar No. 6538 3353 8847.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support of their claim within **7 (seven) days** from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.06,** Katha No.45, Present BBMP Khatha No.1349/6/45, Situated at **Vasanthapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** presently under the limits of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Measuring: East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet, Totally measuring : **1200 Sq.feet.**

AND BOUNDED ON THE:

East by:Property bearing No.5, West by:Road, North by:Private Property, South by :Road.

Mrs.Manjula Shivukumar, Advocate
No. C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob: 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client has entered into Agreement to Sell dated 02-03-2023, to purchase the schedule property from its co-owners i) Smt.Vijayamba C K, Wife of Late R V Narayana Murthy, Aged about 77 years, AADHAAR : 4800 1533 4710, ii) Sri.Rayapura Narayana Amit Murthy, Son of Late.R V Narayana Murthy, Aged about 52 years, AADHAAR:7722 4342 9293, iii) Smt.Aarthi Rayapura Narayana, Wife of Sri.Guruprasad Suryanarayana, Daughter of Late.R V Narayana Murthy, Aged about 44 years, residing at No.428, Dorado Way, South San Francisco, CA-94080, AADHAAR: 6041 5357 3718 and iv) Sri.R V Prabhakar @ Rayapura Venkata Ramaiah Prabhakar, Son of Late.R V Ramaiah, Aged about 80 years, residing at No:1640, Thirtieth Cross, Seventeenth Main, Banashankari Second Stage, Bangalore – 560 0070, AADHAAR:8692 3598 9890;

Any, person, having any claim over the schedule property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person/s, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned within 20 (twenty) days hereof, failing which my client will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.1035, situated at Thirteenth Cross Road, Banashankari Second Stage, Bangalore, Ward No.165-Ganesh Mandir (old ward no.56. still earlier Division No.50), PID No.56-9-1035, together with structures standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No.1034;
West by : Road;
North by : Road;
South by : Property bearing No.1036;
MEASURING: East to West : 67 feet;
North to South : (81 ft. +79 ft.)/2;

N S SATYANARAYANA GUPTA
K S Nayak, N S Rachana,
N C Janardhan
Rachana Law Associates,
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No:2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, BANGALORE – 560 070; PH : 9731333880
Dt:02-03-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mrs.Swarnalatha Ramesh,** had lost the original sale deed dated: 2/11/1995, vide No.2658/1995-96 of Book I, Volume No.4267, pages 47 to 56, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru and in this regard my client has also lodged a police complaint before the jurisdictional Bangalore City Police on 23/01/2023 and later my client has also given paper publication on 25/01/2023 in this regard and my client appealed to the general public to return the original document if anyone has found the same. Since no one came forwarded to hand over the same, my client has obtained the certified copy of the above said Sale Deed from the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore on 01/02/2023, vide Certified CA No.4149/22-23 and the said certified copy which my client has in her possession now shall be treated as original document in the abovementioned circumstances.

Dileep.N, Advocate,
No.114, 9th Cross, 5th Main, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-560019. Mobile : 9740000881

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **MR. RAMESH K PATEL S/o. Mr. Khetha Pokar,** No.180/3, J K Kunj, Banaswadi Outer Ring Road, Bangalore – 560043 is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **LT.COL S.SIVARAMAN S/o. Mr. S.R. Subramaniam** and his Wife **MRS. MEENAKSHI SIVARAMAN**, No. 62, Lakshmi Krupa, Binny Mill Road, 2nd Main, Near Ganga Bakery, Ganganagar, R T Nagar, Bangalore - 560032 , and others .any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of this public notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property bearing No.95, Katha Sl.No.1972, "Ferns Meadows", Old House List Katha No: 158/123/1, Situated at : Bilishivale Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently under BBMP Limit, Measuring East 50 Feet, West 50 Feet, North 80 Feet & South 80 Feet, In all Measuring 4000 Square feet, and bounded on the:

East by: Plot No.98; West by: Private Road; North by: Plot No.94; South by: Plot No.96;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

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AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
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Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited for **Procurement / refilling of cartridges of printers for the Academic Year 2023-24 for APS ASC Centre & College**. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹100/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 03 Mar 2023 to 23 Mar 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 24 Mar 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client intends to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **Sri.Manjunath Rao .M** S/o. Late Sri.Mannoji Rao, residing at No.35, 3rd Cross, 2nd Block, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore – 560 027.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.17 measuring East to West: 45ft and North to South: 30 ft along with a building thereon, situated at 3rd Cross, 2nd Block, Sudhamanagara, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Private Property.
West by : Road
North by : Property belongs to Shanmugam.
South by : Property belongs to Venkatesh.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Health Officer (West),
Bhashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru

No.: H.O(W)/PR/2036/2022-23 **Date: 02.03.2023**

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the candidates for afresh recruitment on merit cum roster basis through walk-in process on purely contractual basis for a period of 1 year for the following posts in Subrahmanyanagar (Old Ward 66 New Ward 62) Health Center of Malleswaram Division, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	Educational Qualification	Consolidated Pay	No. of Posts
1	Dental Doctors	BDS degree from recognized university registered under Dental Council of India.	Rs. 40,000/- Month	1
2	X-RAY Technician	SSLC with 3 years Diploma in X-Ray technician or PUC science with 2 years X-Ray Diploma Course recognized by Karnataka Paramedical Board.	Rs. 15,750/- Month	1
3	Physiotherapist	Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy (BPT) in Govt recognized institute.	Rs. 25,000/- Month	1
4	Ophthalmic Assistant	2 years Diploma in Optometry or Ophthalmic Assistant in Govt. recognized institute.	Rs. 12,000/- Month	1

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. **Age Limit:** Candidates shall not exceed the age mentioned below:
   a. General Category - 35 Years
   b. 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B - 38 Years
   c. SC, ST, Cat-1 - 40 Years
2. The candidates should have minimum knowledge of Kannada administrative language.

Interested Candidates should submit the copy of relevant original documents (SSLC marks card, related educational marks card, registered educational Certificate) to the Office of the Health Officer (P.H) West Zone on or before **03.03.2023** upto **4:00 p.m.**

Place of submission of application: The Health Officer (P.H) West Zone, Shasakara Bhavana Building, Opp. Mantri Mal, Bhashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-20.

For more information contact: Phone No.: **9480688561**, Email ID: **howestbbmp@gmail.com** or visit Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike website: **https://bbmp.gov.in**

Sd/- , Health Officer (West)
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

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Decongesting Bengaluru

Proposed flyovers

On Gokula Road near Mathikere at a cost of **₹40 crore**

At ORR–pipeline junction at Jalahalli at a cost of **₹40 crore**

Over Mehkri Circle underpass on Jayamahal Road at a cost of **₹65 crore**

At Sadashivanagar Police Station circle at a cost of **₹40 crore**

Deposit contribution to NHAI for construction of additional vents at Yelahanka Raitha Santhe road at a cost of ₹25 crore

Cost escalation for old projects

₹70 crore for signal-free corridor from Tumakuru Road to Nayandahalli junction

₹70 crore for the widening Bannerghatta Road

₹85 crore for grade separator at Wilson Garden flyover

₹190 crore for seamless corridor from Chord Road to Kurubarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout, R.R. Nagar, and up to Magadi Road

₹125 crore for underbridge near Yeshwantpur Railway Station

₹124 crore for flyovers at Hoodi junction, ITPL Big Bazaar junction, and Hope Farm

₹137 crore for Minerva junction grade separator

₹60 crore for grade separator at Yelahanka flyover

₹104 crore for flyover at Suranjan Das Road junction on Old Madras Road

More projects

₹450 crore will be earmarked for comprehensive development of 350 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads on Light TenderSURE model

₹300 crore has been earmarked for reconstruction of BWSSB excavated roads in 110 villages

Elevated rotary flyover at a cost of ₹345 crore for connectivity to Sir M. Visveswaraiah Railway Station at Baiyappanahalli

₹75 lakh for each ward — of which ₹30 lakh is for desilting of drains, ₹15 lakh for pothole filling, ₹25 lakh for footpath maintenance, and ₹5 lakh for monsoon control room

₹125 lakh each will be given for other civil works of the ward

₹2 crore discretionary grant for each of the 243 wards

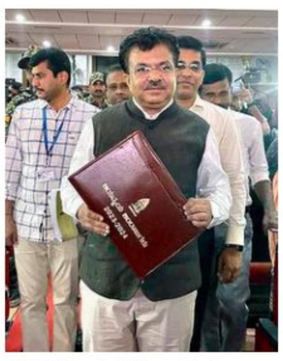
Integrated overbridge from Yeshwantpur Railway Station to New BEL Road in collaboration with suburban railway to provide direct connectivity to Mathikere, Sanjaynagar, and Yeshwantpur at a cost of ₹200 crore

White topping

White-topping work of **150 km** of road at a cost of **₹1,410** crore — **₹1,000** crore from State government and **₹410** crore cost escalation by BBMP

After 3 years, civic body to effectively implement welfare programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance Jayaram Raipura arriving at Town Hall to present the Budget on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

After nearly three years, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced various welfare schemes in its budget. The civic body claimed that it was not possible to effectively implement welfare programmes during 2020-21 and 2021-22 on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"All previous welfare programmes of the BBMP are being taken up again during 2022-23. As many as 1,500 beneficiaries have been selected under 'Onti Mane' scheme in 2022-23 for providing assistance of ₹5 lakh each under various categories. A sum of ₹100 crore has been earmarked for 2,000 people under the Onti Mane scheme in 2023-24," BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance Jayaram Raipura said in his Budget speech on Thursday. Along with 48 night shelters in Bengaluru for the homeless, the civic body, following the order of the Supreme Court, has proposed to set up 84 night shelters at an additional cost of ₹3 crore during 2023-24.

Old age homes

The BBMP is also planning to open eight old age homes, one for each zone in 2023-24, under Shravan Vasathi scheme. A sum of ₹16 crore is earmarked for the same by the civic body. Meanwhile, a Savithri Vasathi scheme is proposed to be started in 2023-24 to provide paying guest accommodation for working women. "Eight such hostels are proposed in each of the eight zones of the BBMP in association with empanelled voluntary organisations. An amount of ₹24 crore has been earmarked for this welfare programme," Mr. Raipura said.

The BBMP has earmarked ₹25 crore for the development of street hawker zones. The palike said in its Budget that a city-wide survey is already being conducted for the welfare of street vendors. Town Vending Committees have also been formed. Two hawker zones have been identified in each Assembly constituency of the city. "So far, 67,385 street vendors have been identified under the Prime Minister Swanidhi scheme and 36,115 beneficiaries have received financial assistance from banks," he added. The BBMP has earmarked ₹5 crore to encourage legal, medical, engineering and similar such higher education as well as foreign education of children of BBMP employees and DPS employees.

Amid opposition, BBMP proposes more flyovers

Flyovers and underpasses are needed to decongest Bengaluru, improve traffic flow at junctions, and create signal-free corridors, says the civic body; activists have opposed the announcement

BBMP BUDGET

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Civic works along with white-topping work under way on Indiranagar 100 Ft. Road in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Amid the opposition to the ongoing and proposed flyovers in the city by citizens, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in its Budget presented on Thursday, announced five new flyovers along with cost escalation to nine ongoing flyover projects.

"There is a need to decongest Bengaluru traffic, improve traffic flow at junctions, and create signal-free traffic corridors. In this regard, flyovers and underpasses are proposed to be taken up during 2023-24 itself," said BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance Jayaram Raipura.

The BBMP said there are 42 flyovers and 28 underpasses in Bengaluru.

Activists opposed the announcement by the BBMP. Vinay Sreenivasa, a civic activist, said, "When there is a separate body to take decisions on flyovers – that is the BMLTA, I don't think they (the BBMP) has to announce flyovers without consulting the BMLTA. Rather than spending on flyovers, the BBMP has to spend on more bus stops and other public transport-friendly initiatives to decongest the traffic."

Srinivas Alavilli, a citizen activist, said we cannot oppose all flyovers, but the BBMP, without consulting experts and residents, proposes unwanted flyovers which are really not needed.

Cost escalation

A whopping ₹1,375 crore in the Budget outlay is going to fund project cost escalation. This comes days after the Opposition Congress alleged that the government had been resorting to showing inflated costs for projects, sometimes double to what was estimated earlier, claiming this indicated corruption.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said the project cost escalation was at the Detailed Project Report stage and the State government had asked the civic body to fund the escalation from its own resources.

Further, a large chunk of this is being funded by raising long-term loans from the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation.

The Budget allocates "additional grants" of ₹965 crore for nine projects, most of them grade separators, of which ₹770 crore will be financed through loans.

The State government had earmarked ₹1,000 crore for white topping 150 km of roads in the city, but the project now costs ₹1,410 crore and the civic body would fund the gap, Mr. Giri Nath said.

Citizen-friendly initiatives in the offing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday announced various citizen-friendly initiatives to streamline the system, including 'Integrated Financial Management System' (IFMS) to facilitate all payments.

By the end of 2022-23, the BBMP hopes to bring all incomes and receipts as well as all interoffice transfers within the IFMS.

The BBMP is also introducing the e-Asthi system to record purchase deed registration. It has been implemented on a pilot basis in East Zone of the BBMP. "Having removed the deficiencies in the existing software, e-Asthi-2 will be implemented in 2023-24 in East, West, and South zones of the BBMP. It is proposed to implement the new software across the entire BBMP jurisdiction based on the consistency and success of this improvised version," BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance, Jayaram Raipura said in his budget speech.

Meanwhile, the town planning approval fee is likely to be increased and the civic body is setting a target of ₹658 crore from it in 2023-24. No-objection certificates are being obtained from several departments while giving permission for the construction of buildings in the Town Planning Department of the BBMP. "This system will be improved in 2023-24 by obtaining online NOCs from all departments concerned, such as Bescom, BMRCL, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, and Fire Department," Mr. Raipura added.

'Apart from ORR flooding, no major incident last year'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite the fact that various parts of the city were flooded during heavy rain last year, creating havoc, the BBMP in its Budget claimed that there had not been any other major flood incident. "Apart from the incident of Savalakere lake overflowing and flooding the Outer Ring Road in East Bengaluru, there was no other major flood incident. This is a testimony to the efficiency of storm-water drainage works done by the BBMP. In spite of record rainfall of 1,958 mm in Bengaluru, the BBMP managed to prevent any other major flooding incident," BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance Jayaram Raipura said.

"A sum of ₹72.90 crore has been earmarked for maintenance of tertiary drains at ₹30 lakh per ward," he added.

BBMP sets ambitious revenue target; relatively reduces dependence on State govt. grants

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The civic body has set an ambitious target of collecting a whopping ₹4,790 crore in property tax and related cesses in 2023-24. This is the highest-ever target – a projected raise of 27% – on a year-on-year basis.

"Our property tax collection improved by 24% in 2022-23 on a year-on-year basis and based on that performance, it is not too off the mark to aim for a 27% raise this year," said Jayaram Raipura, Special Commissioner (Finance), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), who presented the Budget on Thursday.

Property tax

However, ₹4,790 crore, includes not only cesses but also the projected collection of arrears, penalties, and interest on non-payment of taxes. An analysis by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy showed the target for property tax receipts for 2023-24 has been fixed at ₹3,761 crore, which is "only 2% higher than the 2022-23 budgetary estimate, indicating stagnancy in the BBMP's property tax collections", which Janaagraha attributed to lack of revision in tax valuation since 2016-17. "The year-on-year increase averages at 9%, which is much lower than the expected budgeted increase of 27% for collections in 2023-24," Janaagraha observed. "Over the past few years, the BBMP's administration has strengthened its collection efforts by focusing on recovery from commercial properties, expanding its tax net by bringing new properties under assessment, and plugging leakages by correcting under assessment in property tax as compared to electricity (Bescom) records," Janaagraha observed.

Revenue analysis

	2016-17 actuals	2017-18 actuals	2018-19 actuals	2019-20 actuals	2020-21 actuals	2021-22 actuals	2022-23 *RE	2023-24 **BE
Total receipts (in ₹ crore)	6,573	7,321	7,296	6,345	7,479	8,864	9,927	11,158
BBMP's own revenue (in ₹ crore)	3,068	3,175	3,438	3,428	3,421	3,714	4,561	5,744
% of total receipts	47	43	47	54	46	42	46	51
State grants (in ₹ crore)	3,505	4,030	3,585	2,694	3,825	4,829	4,623	4,094
% of total receipts	53	55	49	42	51	54	47	37

Source: Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, *Revised Estimates, **Budget Estimates

The revised estimates for 2022-23 for property tax shows that the civic body expects to mop up 80% of the target set the previous year, which is its best performance till now.

In his Budget speech, Mr. Raipura commended the efforts of the Revenue Department in 2022-23 for "plugging leakages and identifying revenue sources". A study comparing Self-Assessment Scheme declarations and Bescom records led to the identification of 12,699 cases where commercial buildings had declared themselves as residential for property tax and this led to a tax of ₹134 crore being levied. The Budget estimates another ₹250 crore would be levied on this account.

Backed by higher targets to mop up its own revenue, the civic body has reduced its reliance on State government grants, even as grants have fallen in absolute numbers as well over the past two years, analysis by Janaagraha has shown.

"Between 2016-17 and 2022-23, own revenue's share of total receipts has averaged at 46%. In 2023-24, the BBMP's budgeted estimate for its own revenue as a share of total receipts is 51%," Janaagraha said.

This is coupled with the BBMP's dependency on State government grants estimated to reduce from 54% in 2021-22 to 37% in 2023-24, which Janaagraha said was a "healthy sign of fiscal self-sufficiency", even as the Budget speech termed it an "Atmanirbhar Budget". "Even in value terms, the BBMP's grants are estimated to reduce by 15% from ₹4,829 crore in 2021-22 to ₹4,094 crore in 2023-24," Janaagraha observed. This was mainly due to a drastic reduction expected in revenue grants support such as salary, electricity, and maintenance expenses from the State government, "which is estimated to reduce by nearly 60% (in value terms) from ₹1,504 crore in 2021-22 to ₹633 crore in 2023-24", Janaagraha said.

INBRIEF

'B khata regularisation after amendments to two laws'

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) expects to mobilise ₹1,100 crore from the long-promised regularisation of B khata to A khata, through alienation charges and betterment fee for the same.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said the BBMP was waiting for the State Assembly to pass two amendments to the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, and Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, to empower the civic body to go ahead with the regularisation process. "We had expected these amendments to come through in the recently concluded session, but that did not happen. We hope these amendments will be passed in the coming session and we will begin the process," he said. Mr. Giri Nath said the regularisation of B khata to A khata would only regularise the site and not the building on it.

Dinner service discontinued at many Indira Canteens

Chief civic commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said that several Indira Canteens were suffering from lack of patronage, especially during night-time, and many of them had stopped serving dinner. This comes amid Opposition Congress, whose flagship programme the canteens were, accusing the ruling BJP of sabotaging the pro-poor initiative.

"We have already shut down operations of nine mobile canteens due to lack of patronage. The contractors running the canteens have reported a fall in patronage during dinner time. Since the contract specifies them to provide at least 500 meals and there is no meaning in serving less than 50 people in many places, they have stopped offering dinner. Adamya Chetana has stopped serving dinner at 30 to 35 canteens," he said. The Budget earmarks ₹50 crore for the canteens this year.

Secretary-level officer to be Health Commissioner

A Secretary-level officer will be appointed as Bengaluru Health Commissioner, who will head the new Bengaluru Health System (BHS), which for the first time will bring primary health centres, primary referral hospitals of the civic body, key government hospitals, and premier institutions in the city under one command.

"BHS shall ensure medical care to all patients through call centres, help desks, free enrolment, and free treatment. It will also follow up on medical care by maintaining detailed medical records of all such patients," the civic Budget said, earmarking ₹2 crore for starting the BHS unit.

Uniform grant for outer zone wards and core city wards

Discontinuing the practice of providing additional grants to wards in outer zones, the civic body this year provided a ₹2 crore discretionary grant for all 243 wards in the city, drawing the ire of many from the outer zones. Outer wards were given ₹3 crore and core city wards ₹2 crore over the past few years, to help bridge the lag in infrastructure in the outer zone wards.

"Earlier, there was no uniformity in ward sizes, but now all the 243 wards roughly have the same population. Most of the civic body's infrastructure spending is anyway in the outer zones. So, we have shifted to uniform discretionary funding," Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said.

However, many in the outer zones have protested, arguing that the chasm between the developmental needs of the core city wards and the outer zone wards was so wide that providing uniform grants would be a travesty of justice. "This is why we have been demanding a separate corporation so that we can develop our areas with the taxes we pay," said Jagadish Reddy of Varthur Rising.

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Chat with Karnataka School Exam and Assessment Board officials on March 7

Experts to answer queries during interaction from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is officially exam season. As the countdown to the II Pre-University and class X board exams begins, ThtalksBengaluru provides students and parents with the opportunity of talking to officials from the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board.

They will answer a wide range of questions from exam phobia to preparations

On March 7, Prasanna Kumar, senior assistant director (examination) for Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board, along with subject experts, will answer your questions as they participate in #THtalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. They will answer a wide range of questions from examination phobia, exam preparations, concentration problems, to confusion in the subject. You can send in your questions via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat on Tuesday.

Hospital to be inaugurated today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The inaugural ceremony of Sri Lakshmi Mother and Children Hospital, (a unit of Sri Lakshmi Super Speciality Hospital) will be held on Friday.

Chief guests

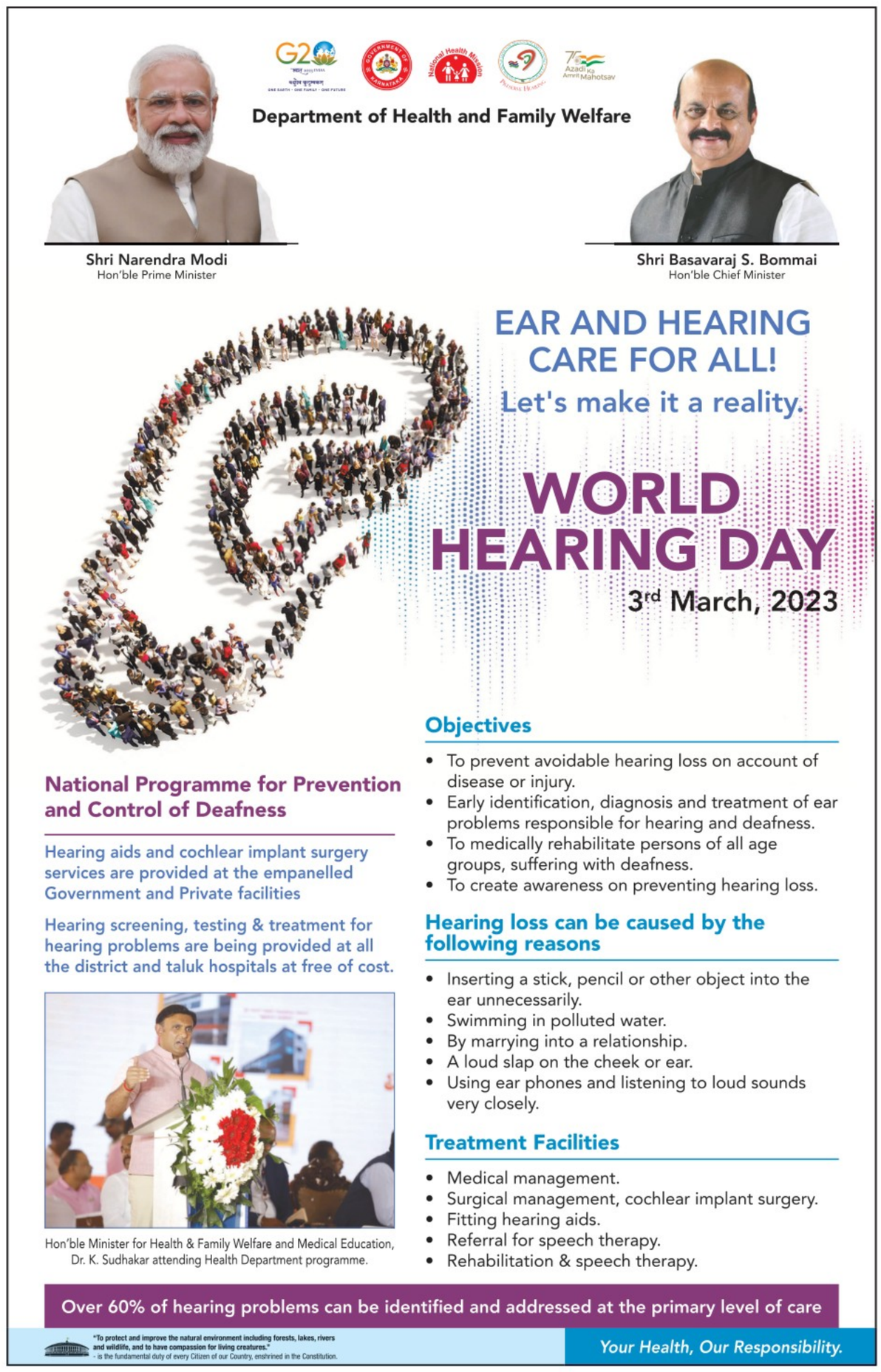
Byrathi Basavaraj, Minister for Urban Development, Poornima Krishnappa, MLA, and Shwetha Srivatsav, Kannada film actor, will participate in the programme as chief guests. The venue for the event will be the hospital premises, K.R. Puram, Old Extension, at 11 a.m.

International conclave on G20 Presidency held at Kristu Jayanti College

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College on Thursday organised the G20 University Connect International Conclave on G20 Presidency: Responsibilities and Opportunities in collaboration with Hon. Consular Corps Diplomatique, Bangalore chapter. The conclave was aimed at facilitating an understanding of the significance of India's G20 Presidency and enabling students to engage and be involved in the G20 process on the sidelines.

Kristu Jayanti College, in a release, said that there were four plenary sessions that initiated deliberations on environment and sustainability, start-up and innovation, trade and investment, and global health. This international conclave is our participation in the mission of G20 to bring light and prosperity to all nations," said Fr. Augustine George, principal of the college.



Police and the public pushing a fire engine that faced a technical snag on Ballari Road. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Police caning student activists protesting against the National Education Policy in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Traffic policemen filling potholes in front of the KSR City Railway Station in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Police stopping people who were moving around during the lockdown in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Are 2,000 new police posts enough for burgeoning Bengaluru?

Budget announcement is welcome but it is 'too little'; and unless expedited, the gains this could potentially bring to the force are likely to be nullified, say police officers

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

After nearly a decade, the State Budget for 2023-24 announced the sanction of 2,000 more posts for the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner C. H. Pratap Reddy took to Twitter to thank Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Home Minister Araga Jnanedra. Terming the hike "a game-changing 11% raise", he said this would mean "better women's safety, traffic management, cybercrime investigations and public order in Namma Bengaluru".

While officers across the board agree this is much needed and it would definitely improve the situation on the ground, multiple former city police commissioners and officers on the ground *The Hindu* spoke to felt this was "too little", and unless expedited, the potential gains could even be nullified.

Bengaluru, riding on the software technology boom, saw rapid growth in the last two decades and is now estimated to have a population of 1.2 crores and a floating population of a few lakhs. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), in its Draft Revised Master Plan - 2031, now being reworked, estimates that the population will grow to 2.3 crore by 2030.

Number of police personnel

Bengaluru City Police has a strength of 12,000 personnel in the law and order section operating 110 police stations, and 5,300 in the traffic police section running 44 stations. While the ratio of police personnel to one lakh population for Bengaluru is not available, the ratio for the State is among the lowest in the mid-size and large States in the country, a fact observed by Raghavendra Auradkar Committee on Police Pay Parity.

As per a reply from the Ministry of Home Affairs in Rajya Sabha in 2021, Karnataka had 158.23 police personnel per every lakh of population as per sanctioned strength, even as all States in South India except Andhra Pradesh had a higher ratio.

Presently, each police station in the city, which covers a population of over a lakh, has an average of 110 personnel. A majority of them have to be deployed for *bandobast, tappal* and court work. That leaves very few to do actual policing, including patrolling and criminal investigations, a police inspector told *The Hindu*, adding that despite a deployment of an average of 110, there are police stations run by fewer than 10 personnel.

Given the dire situation, 2,000 additional posts sanctioned now will definitely improve the situation. However, it won't bring drastic changes, multiple officers said.

New police stations

Many of the additional posts now sanctioned will likely be absorbed by the slew of new police stations, divisions and sub-divisions carved out in the city over the last three years, which have been forced to make do with borrowed staff till now. The older stations, also suffering from a severe paucity of human resources, will likely get very few of the new posts sanctioned, a senior officer said.

Over the last three years, six new law and order police stations have been set up, apart from a new division for Whitefield. Six new traffic police stations and a new division for South are in the pipeline, even as eight new Cybercrime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police stations have been established in the city.

Lag in recruitment

"Given this situation, the 2,000 new posts now sanctioned seems like a catch-up the government is doing to the number of new police stations they have already opened. But Bengaluru City Police needs much more beyond catching up to serve the people better," a senior official said.

> The State government must immediately start a mega police recruitment drive to fill all existing vacancies and recruit people for all the additional posts created.
> **SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL**

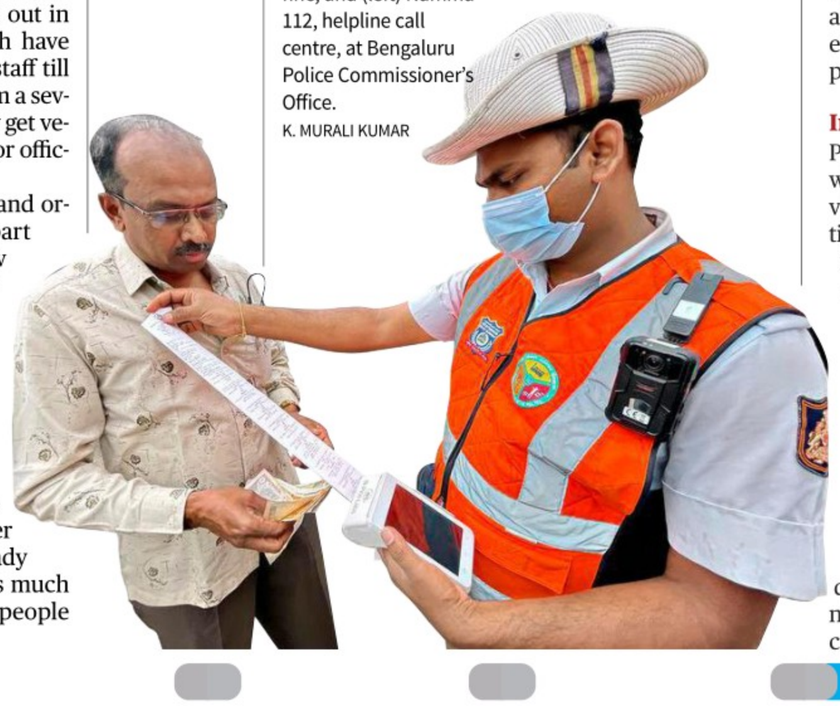
Police personnel posted near the Jnana Bharathi campus in Bengaluru after students blocked roads in protest against a road accident. K. MURALI KUMAR

Since those recruited for the police department have to be trained for at least one year, the time lag between starting the recruitment process to personnel reporting at the police stations is usually two years, sometimes more.

The Police Sub Inspector (PSI) recruitment exam scam that hit the department in 2022, during the proposed recruitment of 545 PSIs – a process which started in 2021, led to the cancellation of the entire process. This has meant Karnataka Police hasn't recruited a single PSI in two years, and there have been no signs of the recruitment starting again. This has essentially meant thousands of officers retiring every year without a replacement in the force, skewing the workload for the existing workforce further.

"Sanctioning additional 2,000 posts is definitely not enough. The city police need more. But as a first step, this is welcome. The State government must immediately start a mega police recruitment drive to fill all existing vacancies and recruit people for all the additional posts created. If they start the process today, it will take another two years for them to report to the stations, and by then, the city's population would have grown further. But this is the least that needs to be done immediately," a senior official said.

Another officer pointed out that police recruitment needs to be an annual affair to replace those who retire from service. "The onus will always be on the station house officer or the person in charge of the force for assessment and deployment of personnel judiciously. Technology needs to be harnessed and judiciously used to harness already sparsely available human resources better," a senior official said.



Police collecting traffic fine, and (left) Namma 112, helpline call centre, at Bengaluru Police Commissioner's Office. K. MURALI KUMAR

Twofold problem of vacancies and low ratio to population

GUEST COLUMN

S.T. Ramesh

The shortage of manpower dogging the Police Department can be discussed in two parts – low police-population ratio and vacancies.

The police population ratio is defined as the number of police personnel for a population of one lakh. In Karnataka, as on January 1, 1920, it was 158.23 & 125.95, considering the sanctioned strength and actual strength, respectively. The UN-approved standard is 250 policemen per lakh of the population. That gives an idea as to how much Karnataka is lagging behind.

No scientific assessment

The malady is that there has been no effort to scientifically assess manpower requirements through parameters such as area, population, crime rate, communal, Naxal and insurgency issues and myriad other factors. As a fallout, the strength of a police station is determined in an arbitrary and random fashion.

The problem of shortage is compounded when newer laws are enacted and entrusted to the police for enforcement. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) is a case in point. This legislation has increased the workload of the police manifold since scores of cases under POCSO are being registered, and rightly so. There are many new legislations and amendments to existing laws which have resulted in an increase in work load without a corresponding sanction of additional personnel.

Increasing responsibilities

Police are often called upon to discharge duties which are not strictly theirs. Enforcement of Covid lockdowns and bandobust during examinations come under this category. Most of the police duties cannot be quantified. Interrogation of a criminal may conclude in two hours in one particular case but may last 20 hours in another. Can someone guess the number of policemen and the man hours spent investigating the sensational and complicated Shraddha Walker murder case in Delhi?

A 2014 study by the Bureau of Police Research & Development estimated that 3,37,500 policemen should be added to the civil police strength of 6,75,115 in India.

Another 2014 manpower requirements study of Bengaluru city police conducted by the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, of which this author was a part, after an elaborate process mapping, estimated that Rajagopalnagar police station required a strength of 457 as against 90, while the one in Banaswadi required 540 as against 87. Such is the gulf between existing numbers and what is required.

A basic eight-hour duty for a policeman remains a pipe dream. They are forced to work without a weekly off. On festivals, far from being able to celebrate them with their families, they are on bandobust duties. They are denied long leave and are often recalled to duty from leave.

Vacancies not filled

Failure to fill up vacancies at a fast clip would remain a self-inflicted wound on the part of the government. As on January 1, 2023, there were 2,858 vacancies of civil police constables, which is 8.1% of their strength. Vacancies in Armed police were 3783 (27.68 %), and those in Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) 3135 (38.95%). The vacancies of civil Police Sub Inspectors were a whopping 824 (22.9%), Reserve Sub-Inspectors (RSI) 161 (32.39%) and KSRP Special RSIs 117 (32.4%).

Best practices such as a realistic forecast of vacancies should be adhered to. The police top brass is unable to adopt and implement a fixed annual calendar for recruitment, hampered as they are by meagre resources.

As per a conservative estimate, the recruitment cycle, from the time of calling for applications to the issue of appointment orders, lasts about 9-10 months. So recruitment to different cadres, as mentioned above, has to be carried out simultaneously and in parallel.

The need of the hour is to strengthen the recruitment branch by posting 4-5 Inspectors General of Police in charge of recruiting different cadres, working under the supervision of an Additional Director General/Director General of Police with adequate personnel. Else, recruitment will be unable to keep pace with vacancies.

Recruitment scams

In the recent Budget speech of the Chief Minister, a sanction of 2,000 additional police personnel to Bengaluru City was announced. How long it would take to fill up these posts is anybody's guess. The sickening regularity with which recruitment scams occur acts as the proverbial greasy pole and sets the clock back. Constant upgradation of technology is the way forward to improve speed and efficiency, apart from making recruitment fail proof.

(The author is former Director-General & Inspector-General of Police, Karnataka)

The Nigerian artist talks about the global success of his hit song and discusses his cultural heritage and creative inspirations

CKay: 'African music is amazing'

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Nigerian singer Chukwuka Ekweani, aka CKay, captivated the audience at the Vh1 Supersonic Mainstage with his chart-topping hits in Bengaluru recently. The Emo-Afrobeat artist gained worldwide recognition with his viral TikTok hit single, 'Love Nwantiti', which marked a pivotal moment for African pop music, a genre that has influenced many renowned musicians but has not attained global commercial success until now.

The song holds the distinction of being the first from the African continent to secure the top spot on YouTube's most-watched music videos list, and its success has helped put African music on the international stage.

In a recent interview with *The Hindu*, CKay spoke about the inspiration behind the song and his Nigerian heritage. "I feel the song's popularity in India is a huge part of that success," he said. "The song was number one in India for a few months and that was exciting because I don't even speak Hindi or any other Indian language. So, I truly appreciate the love from everyone here."

CKay's Nigerian heritage has also played a significant role in his music. "The language I make songs in is my native language, Igbo, primarily spoken in southeastern Nigeria," he explained. "I also use Pidgin English, which is a form of English that is spoken in my country. The things I encounter daily in Nigeria and the challenges I confront serve as the inspiration for my music."

The 27-year-old musician said different genres and artistes have shaped his music. "Michael Jackson had a significant impact on my music, while Lionel Richie and the Backstreet Boys were among the first artistes who inspired me as a young musician."

When asked about African music, CKay noted that music from every other continent has had a presence, and Africa should not be an exception. "African music is amazing, I would hate for the world to not be a part of this," he said. "That's my desire – for the world to revel in the goodness of African music. This music deserves to be everywhere, and it is happening already. I am excited about what will happen after this."

This time for Africa CKay performing at the Vh1 Supersonic Mainstage in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As an artiste who has worked with several other musicians, including Joeboy and Davido, CKay aspires for dream collaborations with his favourite artistes. "Billie Eilish is on that list, as are Drake and Kanye West."

On being asked about his favourite Indian song, he quickly responded with "'Kuchi Kuchi Kota Hai' with Shah Rukh Khan," before being corrected that the actual song is 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai'.

Despite the minor slip-up, his passion for Bollywood movies was clear. "It's crazy...in Nigeria, you wouldn't believe the way women enjoy watching Bollywood movies," he exclaimed. "They don't understand the language, but they still watch it." He praised the culture and storytelling in Indian films, which he believes connects with audiences back home.

As for Indian cuisine, CKay had just arrived in India and tried his first dish – chicken tikka masala at his hotel. "It was cool," he remarked with a grin.

Talking about upcoming projects, the musician revealed he has been working tirelessly on his deluxe album, which he described as "really, really amazing." With a plethora of interesting records and collaborations, CKay's debut album, *Sad Romance*, is also ready for release. "I really can't wait to release the deluxe and I wish I could release it right now, but I have to wait for the right time."

Travelling film festival on gender diversity in town

Gender, masculinity, sexuality, diversity and inclusion will find visual expression at SamaBhav International Film Festival, the first-of-its-kind two-day travelling film festival that will reach Bengaluru on March 3 and 4, 2023.

The festival is being organised by Centre for Social Action, Christ University and School of Sciences, JAIN University, Bengaluru in collaboration with Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA), a Mumbai-based voluntary organisation.

Day One of the screenings will take place at Christ University's Central Campus on Hosur Road, while the venue for Day Two will be at the School of Sciences Auditorium on JC Road Campus. The festival will run from 10am to 7pm on both days.

A safe space

In its fifth year now, SamaBhav (meaning equanimity) will travel to 15 cities across India, including Bengaluru, Pune, Guwahati, Kochi, Srinagar, Gorakhpur, Bilaspur, and Kohima, as well as Jakarta and Thimpu from February to August, 2023.

"The film festival will engage young minds through conversations on contemporary gender issues and intersectionality while advocating a healthy, pluralistic, gender-just society. It aims to provide a safe, non-threatening platform to open up, and celebrate diversity in gender," the team said.

Gender rights activists Harish Sadani, Vinay Chandran, Sudeep Pagedar, RJ Priyanka and Sagar Chandra will be among the key panellists at the festival.

The festival is free and open to all. Register on https://bit.ly/3xRPzFh or contact Harish on 9870307748.

Double the fun

Ritwik Simha talks of the year-long theatre festival that celebrates CR Simha's 80th birth anniversary and Vedike turning 40

Passion play CR Simha was known for his powerful portrayal of Tuglaq. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj
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Being the son of the late theatre and film personality CR Simha, theatre seems to be in Ritwik Simha's DNA. He blames a small role in Brecht's *Chalk Circle,* when he was still a child, for getting him hooked.

As he grew older, he started portraying complex characters. He studied theatre while working with his father and veterans such as MS Sathyu.

Ritwik and his wife, Jasleen, now manage Vedike, the theatre group founded by his father. This year is special as Vedike completes 40 years and June 16 marks his father's 80th birth anniversary.

"We were planning to commemorate it with a double celebration by doing something unique, not a stereotypical event that would be marked off on the calendar." It was this that prompted the idea of a year-long festival – *Vedike-40 CR Simha 80,* says Ritwik.

The aim, explains Ritwik, is to stage plays that will rekindle not only the memories of his father but also his legacy. "The theatre festival will see some of the greatest hits and classics, synonymous with CR Simha and Vedike, come alive on stage."

The festival kicked off on Sankranti with his famed play *Tuglaq, says* Ritwik, who has directed over 50 plays for groups, schools and colleges including, Mahesh Dattani's *Final Solutions,* Kuvempu's *Kurukshetra,* Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*.

Ritwik has also directed a feature film, *Rasarishi Kuvempu,* a biopic based on the life of Karnataka's great poet. The film won the State Award in the best film category.

Ritwik has started the Vedike Natakashaale, offering a free, two-year diploma in Theatre Arts, with focus on *Natyashastra*, Indian acting methodologies, history of Indian and world theatre.

Vedike-40 CR Simha 80 will stage a play every second Saturday at KH Kala Soudha (Hanumathnagar) and every fourth Saturday and Sunday at Vyoma (JP Nagar).

Tickets are available at the venue and BookMyShow.

fridayReview

The Imagine Clothes Bank in Bengaluru outfits those in need, with pre-loved clothes for a song

Banking on trust

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Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can; No need for greed or hunger, A brotherhood of man; Imagine all the people, Sharing all the world...

Inspired by these iconic lines by John Lennon, four friends got together to reduce the gap between the haves and have-nots. "For the longest time, we were doing a lot of activities individually, but everywhere we went, people would ask where we were from," says Melisha Noronha, a Bengaluru-based HR professional, one of the four. "We realised we needed an identity and that's how we registered ourselves as a trust. We called ourselves the Imagine trust."

With Vinod Lobo, a corporate communications expert, Nitin Kumar, an HR professional and Vignesh, a product designer, Imagine would engage in activities such as audiobooks for the blind, teaching English through music and inculcating eco-awareness among children.

Several years ago, Nitin had successfully worked out a scheme based on the premise that people should be able to receive clothes with dignity.

"Instead of being saddled with hand-me downs which left them with no choice in terms of colour, size, style or fit, we imagined a platform where people could take what they wanted," says Melisha.

"Honestly, we shop a lot more than we use, outgrow sizes a lot faster than we should and somehow think we're doing a great job by donating our clothes to the help. Just because they are not financially able, it doesn't mean they have to wear what they don't like."

While Imagine provided them with a platform to pick stuff of their choice, "We wanted to add an element of dignity to the proceedings – that it was not charity but something they paid for themselves."

Dress to express A visitor to the Bank; (above) The team behind the clothes bank - Vignesh, Vinod, Melisha and Nitin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All the outfits at Imagine's Clothes Bank cost ₹1 (one rupee).

"It certainly doesn't help with our expenses and since there is no way you'll get a pair of jeans for that price, it eliminates that angle of charity. Buyers can feel pride that they're not wearing hand-me-downs but clothes they 'bought' by choice," she says.

While the Trust does not question people who visit the Bank, "the only check we do is we ask people to bring in their Aadhaar card to limit the number of times they come – once in two months. Every time they come in, they can pick 10 items of their choice."

While the team welcomes all kinds of clothes, they draw the line at frayed, worn and damaged items. "Your role doesn't end with a donation. When somebody is receiving it with dignity, make sure you give it with dignity. I always ask two questions, 'Would you wear what you're donating? Would you like the receiver to know this came from you?' If not, it doesn't qualify to be on our racks."

While people can drop clothes off at the Bank from 9am to 1pm, Monday through Saturday, clothes can only be purchased on Sundays. Apart from two staff members who man the Bank during the week, the entire project is run by the efforts of volunteers – both at the Bank where they help customers and at their places of residence where they organise donation drives.

For details log on to https://www.theimaginetrust.org/project-clothbank.html

STEPOUT

Get fighting fit

There will be a kalaripayattu workshop, conducted by Loka Studio for Movement Practices. Kalari is an ancient martial art and is considered one of the oldest forms that originated in Kerala.

The focus in this form is mainly on the coordination between the mind and body.

The fee is ₹750 a day and ₹1,000 for both days.

At The Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwantpur Industrial Suburb, March 4 and 5, 4.30pm to 6pm.

Call 6364010261.

The sound of four

The Èlia Bastida Quartet is in town and will present a jazz performance. The event will feature Èlia Bastida (violin and vocals), Joan Chamorro (double bass), Arnau Julia (drums) and Josep Traver (guitar). Èlia is a classical violinist, who also sings and plays the tenor saxophone. She is influenced by the lyrics and swing of Stéphane Grappelli. She shapes her path based on the music of Zoot Sims, Sonny Stitt, and Scott Hamilton.

On March 3 and 4, 8.30pm at Windmills. Tickets on BookMyShow

INBRIEF

Hoskote MLA protests on Vidhana Soudha premises

Sharath Bache Gowda, Congress MLA, staged a protest on Vidhana Soudha premises on Thursday, alleging that Minister N. Nagaraju (M.T.B.) was blocking the release of funds for development of his constituency Hoskote. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar called on Mr. Gowda and expressed his support. "For the last six months, 27 developmental works that were supposed be taken up at a cost of ₹10 crore in various hoblis have been stalled," he alleged at a press conference.

Workshop for zookeepers held

Bannerghatta Biological Park in association with Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, conducted a three-day 'Regional capacity enhancement workshop for zookeepers' from February 27 to March 1 on its premises in Bannerghatta. As many as 29 zookeepers from various States participated. Various theoretical and practical sessions were conducted on importance of routine practices and to enhance ability to handle cases needing specialised care and rigorous monitoring.

Kaveri-2 to be adopted across State in three months to streamline registration process

Revenue Minister says the software will allow property registration to be done in 10 minutes and relieves public of the ordeal of depending on touts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kaveri-2, a software designed to prevent multiple registration of the same property and other fraudulent transactions, will be adopted by all sub-registrar offices in Karnataka within three months, announced Revenue Minister R. Ashok.

The Minister, who launched the software at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday, said the new software ensures registration of properties in just 10 minutes and relieves public of the ordeal of waiting at the sub-registrar offices for hours or depending on touts.

The Department of Stamps and Registration has developed the new software in association with the Centre for Smart Governance, Mr. Ashok said.

The software has been designed to prevent multiple registration of the same property and other fraudulent transactions. FILE PHOTO

The software has already undergone user acceptance test (UAT) and is now being implemented on a pilot basis in Chincholi and Belagavi South sub-registrar offices, he pointed out.

He said the new software would make the registration process user-friendly by dividing it into three stages of pre-registration, registration, and post-registration.

In the pre-registration process, citizens have to pre-enter the data required for registration through an online process, to allow for sub-registrars to verify authenticity of the property meant for registration and alert the citizens if there is any illegality. If the document is authentic, it is sent back for making online payment. After this, citizens can schedule the date and time of registration as per their convenience.

The actual process of registration has been simplified and would take only about 10 minutes, the Minister explained.

During this process, citizens would have to visit the sub-registrar's office on the scheduled time for presentation of documents and for capturing of photo and thumb impression.

In the post-registration stage, the citizens would get the digitally signed document after completion of registration.

Similarly, the updated data would be sent to the department for updating Khata, he explained.

To avoid any fraudulent transaction, the Kaveri-2 software provides for integration of application with many other departmental applications like Bhoomi, e-SWATHU, e-AASTHI, KHAJANE-II, FRUITS, and SAKALA, the Minister pointed out.

A call centre has also been set up to create public awareness about the new facility and also assist citizens in the new system, track their application and register their grievances, Mr. Ashok said.

Sub-registrar offices to have facilities like passport offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sub-registrar offices in Karnataka are set for a make-over in a citizen-friendly manner on the lines of the passport offices by including facilities for general public like waiting area, restrooms, food area, ramp, and lifts. The Department of Stamps and Registration has prepared a blueprint in this regard.

This has already been adopted by the sub-registrar offices in Byatarayanapura of Bengaluru, Sankeshwar, and Belagavi South, according to a release. All sub-registrar offices in the State would get it during 2023-24.

Reservation demand: Panchamasalis threaten to block roads tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kudalasangama Peetha seer Sri Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami said roads will be simultaneously blocked across the State at 11 a.m.

Members of the Panchamsali community, a sub-sect of Veerashaiva-Linagayats, who are seeking 2A status for reservation in government employment and education, have threatened to block national, State highways, and other roads on Saturday pressing for their demand.

Kudalasangama Peetha seer Sri Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami, who has been sitting on a dharna here since January 14, told reporters on Thursday that the roads will be simultaneously blocked across the State at 11 a.m. to highlight the community's ire towards the "indifference" shown by the government to their demands. He urged the community members to shut the roads for at least one hour across the State.

"For nearly 50 days, the government has forced me to sit on the road. The community's patience has run out," he said. Saturday also marks 50 days of the dharna of Panchamsalis in Bengaluru.

2A status

The community has been demanding 2A status since the last two years, and the seer has led the community's demand for reservation. However, the government, to appease the Panchamsalis, had during Belagavi legislature session in December, 2022, announced creation of a new category of 2D for Lingayats.

The Panchamsalis, however, rejected the offer and the High Court also intervened in the matter.

The Kudalasangama seer was critical of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and accused him of causing delay in according 2A status. "The indifference shows that the community is being ignored and the government is insulting us," the seer alleged, adding that he would travel across 224 Assembly constituencies to highlight the injustice to the community if the government does not agree to their demands.

BJP concerned over Somanna's absence at launch of ratha yatra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP is said to be concerned over the absence of its senior leader and Minister V. Somanna at its first Jana Sankalpa Ratha Yatra flagged off by national president J.P. Nadda at M.M. Hills in Chamarajanagar district on Wednesday.

V. Somanna

Mr. Somanna, who is also in-charge Minister for the district, did not attend Mr. Nadda's event on Wednesday.

Speculation is rife in the party that Mr. Somanna is upset over veteran leader K.S. Eshwarappa being made in charge of the rally though it began from the district for which he is in charge Minister. It is being said that Mr. Somanna is seeing this as a strategy by veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa to suppress him.

However, Mr. Somanna has not made any public statement in this regard. Meanwhile, both Mr. Nadda and party State election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan are learnt to have spoken to Mr. Somanna. Sources said that Mr. Somanna has expressed his commitment and loyalty to the BJP and that he would abide by whatever the party asks him to do. At the same time, he is believed to have informed that he was hurt by the alleged efforts to ignore him.

Protocol violation issue resurfaces at Ramanagara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

War of words between rival politicians over alleged protocol violations in Ramanagara continued, with D.K. Suresh, MP, on Thursday accusing Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan of not following protocol during the inauguration of a multispeciality hospital.

On Thursday, Health Minister K. Sudhakar, Dr. Ashwath Narayan, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, JD(S) MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy, and Mr. Suresh were the invitees. But, Mr. Suresh alleged that he was invited only on Wednesday night. Mr. Suresh and Dr. Ashwath Narayan were seen arguing over protocol violation. However, tempers cooled as Mr. Suresh was also invited on stage.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru- 560 002.

No.EE/RI/TEC/TEND/29/2022-23 Date:02.03.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC Division invites tenders from eligible contractors for the work detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Package	Approximate Amount put to tender (Rs. in Crores)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Improvements to Drains, Footpath and Asphalting to Selected High Density Corridor - **Package 02**	73.08	73.08
2	Improvements to Drains, Footpath and Asphalting to Selected High Density Corridor - **Package 03**	79.70	79.70

1) Downloading of RFP documents from e-procurement portal from **03.03.2023 onwards. 2)** Pre-bid Meeting : **09.03.2023 at 4.00 p.m. 3)** Last date for submission of bid documents: **16.03.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical Bids: **18.03.2023 at 4.30 a.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in** or contact office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC

Unions call for industrial strike across State against increasing work hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposed amendments increase working hours from 9 to 12 in a day and allow women to work in night shifts

Stating that the proposed amendments brought to Factories Act contravenes the 1919 ILO convention, the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), representing 11 trade unions, have called for an industrial strike across the State on March 23 in protest against the amendments. The unions have said that the amendments are being brought unilaterally and without consultation.

While the trade unions are set to submit a memorandum to the State government to withdraw the amendments on March 8, they will also serve the notice of strike. The proposed amendments to the Factories Act that was cleared in the State legislature during the Budget session last week, increases working hours from 9 to 12 in a day and allows women to work in night shifts. Besides, it increases the interval for rest from 5 to 6 hours.

In the middle of COVID-19 in May 2020, the State government had attempted to increase work hours from 9 to 10 through an ordinance for three months. This was challenged in the High Court. Subsequently, the government withdrew the ordinance.

"The amendments proposed to Factories Act by the State Government are designed towards greater exploitation of the workers. Women workers will be forced into night shifts in exploitative and unsafe conditions such as in the garment sector," a JCTU note said. It said increase in working hours is a highly retrograde measure and attempts to push workers back to the colonial era when they were forced to work for 14 hours a day.

Pointing out that across the world the trend is to reduce working hours and increase employment, the JCTU said that measures to increase the working and overtime hours will impede fresh employment in factories.

115 surgeries conducted under cochlear implant scheme this year: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under Karnataka's cochlear implant scheme, 115 children were operated on this year, said Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar. World Hearing Day is celebrated on March 3 every year and this year the theme is "Ear and hearing care for all, let's make it a reality".

Pointing out that all health workers are being trained in ear care, first aid, and screening, the Minister said that through this, ear care and hearing care are being merged into primary healthcare services. "A cochlear implant scheme has been introduced to address severe hearing loss in children under six years of age. Under this initiative, 115 children have been operated on this year and the remaining 577 beneficiaries are in various stages of preparation for cochlear surgery," he said.

During the last five years, 2,00,305 hearing impaired and 35,418 severely hearing impaired have been identified through NPPCD.

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಮ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ಸಂ.ಕಕರಸಾ/ಯಾವಿ/ಸಂಚಾರ/ವಾ/5189/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:02/03/2023

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:06/2023, 07/2023, 08/2023, 09/2023

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಮ ಯಾದಗಿರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಯಾದಗಿರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.02, 04, ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾದಗಿರ ನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹ, ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.06, ಶಹಾಪೂರ ಹೊಸ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹ(ದಿ:31.08.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.06(ದಿ:30.06.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ),ಶಹಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಸೈಕಲ್ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡ್(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ), ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.01, 02, ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.03(ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹ), 05(ಪ.ಜಾ.ಮೀಸಲು), 06(ಪ.ಜಾ.ಮೀಸಲು), 07, 08, 09, 10(ಪ.ಜಾ.ಮೀಸಲು), 11(ಪ.ಪಂ.ಮೀಸಲು), 12, ಹತ್ತಿಗೂಡುರು ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.07(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ) (ದಿ:10.08.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.09(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ)(ದಿ:31.07.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.10 (ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ)(ದಿ:31.07.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.14(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ), 15(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ), ಸುರಪುರ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ, ಸೈಕಲ್ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡ್(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ), 03, 04(ಪ.ಪಂ.ಮೀಸಲು), ಹುಣಸಗಿ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಸೈಕಲ್ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡ್(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.07(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.01(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ)(ದಿ:10.07.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ), ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.06(ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳ)(ದಿ:31.07.23 ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ) ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.01, 03, 05, ವಡಗೇರಾ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.02, ಕೆಂಭಾವಿ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹ, ಗುರುಮಠಕಲ್ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ 12, 13, 15, ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.03, 04(ಪ.ಪಂ), 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12(ಪ.ಜಾ.), 13, 14, 16(ಪ.ಜಾ.), 17, 18(ಪ.ಜಾ.), 19(ಪ.ಜಾ.), ಸೈದಾಪೂರ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂ.01, 02, ನಾರಾಯಣಪುರ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹ, ಹಾಗೂ ಸುರಪುರ, ಹುಣಸಗಿ, ಗುರುಮಠಕಲ್ ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಲು 05 ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆದಾರರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಶಹಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ, ಶಹಾಪೂರ ಹೊಸ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ, ಹುಣಸಗಿ, ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆದ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆರ್.ಓ.ಪ್ಲಾಂಟ್ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಮಳಿಗೆಗೆ 03 ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆದಾರರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾದಗಿರ ನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಮೂತ್ರಾಲಯ/ಶೌಚಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ(ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.05.2023ರಂದು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ) ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:21.03.2023, 17:00 ಗಂಟೆ
2	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ:24.03.2023, 11:00 ಗಂಟೆ
3	ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಶುಲ್ಕ, & ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ನೀತಿ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.	

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಕರಸಾ ನಿಗಮ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ರವರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:7760992452 ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಸಂಚಾರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಚಾರ ಶಾಖೆಯ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9741877986/7760992458 ರವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಕಕರಸಾ ನಿಗಮ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/504/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2022–23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

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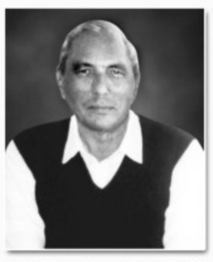
DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
You were our shining & guiding light



RAMESHWAR DATTA SHARMA

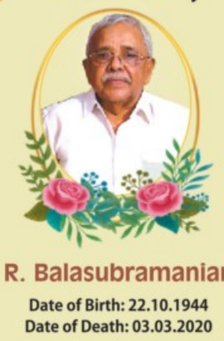
Husband of
Savitri Sharma
passed away peacefully on **25 Feb 2023,** in Bengaluru

A Universal Father, remembered for his warm generosity, magnetic personality, fearless spirit, unshakeable faith and a life well lived in service to humanity.

Savitri Sharma,
Savita Sharma,
Satish Kumar Sharma,
Pradeep Kumar
Family and Friends
Email :
satishs5@yahoo.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

3rd Anniversary



R. Balasubramanian
Date of Birth: 22.10.1944
Date of Death: 03.03.2020

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measures.

Fondly Remembered by
Family & Friends
Mobile:9884045571

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INBRIEF

LIFE Mission case: CBI special court rejects bail to Sivasankar

The bail plea of M. Sivasankar, former principal secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, who was arrested by the ED in the LIFE Mission money laundering case was rejected by a special court of the CBI on Thursday. K.K. Balakrishnan, Special Sessions Judge, Ernakulam, noted that the statements of the investigating officer showed that the release of the petitioner on bail would affect the smooth progress of the investigation.

Family of three killed in road accident in Telangana

In a tragic mishap, three members of a family were killed in their sleep when a speeding lorry ran over their hut at Kollur area of Ramachandrapuram in Telangana during the wee hours of Thursday. Officials said that the driver, who was taking a rice load from Haryana, is suspected to have fallen asleep behind the wheels. State police reached the spot soon after, started rescue operations by clearing the place. They seized the lorry and took the driver into custody.

Gang held for robbing man on RTC bus near Hyderabad

Three men of a gang, who ambushed an RTC bus and robbed a passenger by decamping with ₹10 lakh cash and 2 kg of silver, were nabbed by Rajendranagar police in Hyderabad, Special Operation Teams and the Central Crime Station sleuths. Officials recovered ₹4.07 lakh from the trio, while three more of the gang are absconding. Officials identified the arrested as Fayaz Ahmed, Mohd Ghouse, and Mir Ashfaq Ali.

Minors 'kill' two security guards in A.P.'s Guntur

Two security guards were allegedly killed by two minor boys who were reportedly addicted to drugs and alcohol, in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. The two accused were arrested. The deceased were Sriram Krupanidhi, 64, who worked at a showroom, and Bathula Sambasiva Rao alias Sivaiah, who was guarding a liquor outlet, Superintendent of Police Arif Hafeez said.

Telangana govt. moves SC as Governor delays nod to Bills

State says several Bills passed by two Houses of the State Legislature have been pending since September 14, 2022; takes legal recourse for resolving its grievance against institution of Governor

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The State government says it is constrained to move the top court under its extraordinary jurisdiction conferred under Article 32.

The Telangana government has taken legal recourse for resolving its grievance against the delays in clearance of important Bills, passed by two Houses of the State Legislature, by the institution of the Governor.

The government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court claiming that the Telangana government is constrained to move before the court under its extraordinary jurisdiction conferred under Article 32 of the Constitution of India in view of "a very prequent constitutional impasse created on account of the refusal of the Governor to act on several Bills passed by the State Legislature. These Bills are pending since September 14, 2022 till date for the assent of the Governor", the government said in its petition for which the Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has been made a respondent.

The government in its petition attached copies of the Bills and the list of dates on which the Bills were passed by the Legislature.

The government has quoted Article 200 of the Constitution which mandates that the Governor could assent or could withhold assent in which case the Bill should be returned together with the message requesting that the Houses reconsider the Bill for any specified provision and would consider the desirability of introducing any such amendments as it might recommend in the message. By virtue of Article 163, the Governor was required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as its head.

"The Governor is not expected to act independently and this position has been made amply clear by the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in Shamsher Singh Vs State of Punjab (1974)", the government said.

Employee cannot be dismissed without labour court's permission during pendency of dispute: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Permission from the Labour Court or Tribunal under Section 33 (2)(b) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is required to be obtained by the employer in the event of the employer wanting to "vary the terms of service" during the pendency of dispute either between the employer and the workman or between the employer and the union, said the High Court of Karnataka. Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by Bengaluru-based Mulberry Silks Ltd., a manufacturer of silk fabrics.

Cannot be dismissed

"As the dismissal would definitely be covered under the scope and ambit of 'varying the terms of service', the employer cannot dismiss an employee from the service during the pendency of dispute without obtaining necessary permission from the Labour Court under application under Section 33(2)(b) of the ID Act," the court observed.

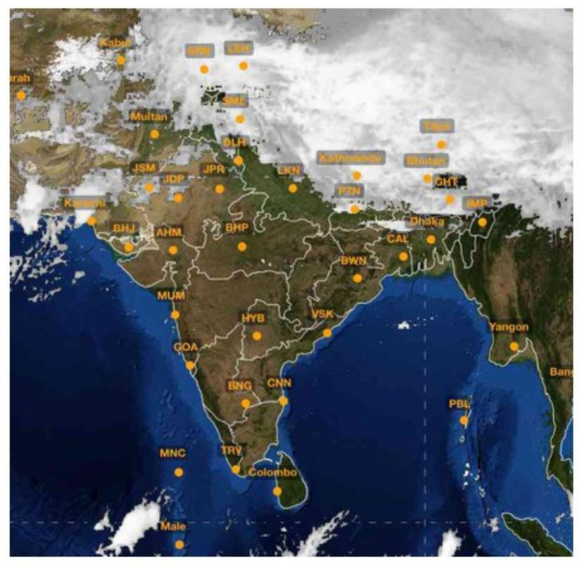
The petitioner-company had questioned the labour court's 2007 decision of directing the company to reinstate an employee, who was dismissed from the service during the pendency of dispute.

Also, the court said that if a few of the workmen settle the dispute over payment of money with the employer under Section 33C(2) of the ID Act, the remaining workmen are not required to settle the same as per the settlement agreed between the employer and some other workmen.

"The workmen's individual claims/dues subject matter of Section 33C(2) of ID Act, proceedings can continue to be agitated irrespective of the settlement of dispute with other workmen," the court clarified.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.4	16.8	Kozhikode	—	36.0	26.3
Ahmedabad	—	37.7	18.2	Kurnool	—	36.5	19.7
Aizawl	—	31.6	10.8	Lucknow	—	32.8	16.6
Allahabad	—	34.2	16.0	Madurai	—	34.6	23.0
Bengaluru	—	30.7	17.8	Mangaluru	—	36.9	23.8
Bhopal	—	35.0	18.0	Mumbai	—	35.5	21.6
Bhubaneswar	—	37.4	20.0	Mysuru	—	33.0	16.0
Chandigarh	—	31.9	15.0	New Delhi	—	31.5	14.1
Chennai	—	34.1	21.6	Patna	—	33.3	17.3
Coimbatore	—	33.2	21.6	Port Blair	—	31.4	24.1
Dehradun	—	30.2	12.4	Puducherry	—	33.2	20.1
Gangtok	—	15.5	11.1	Pune	—	34.5	17.7
Goa	—	35.5	21.8	Raipur	—	35.2	21.6
Guwahati	—	30.9	15.4	Ranchi	—	33.2	16.9
Hubballi	—	35.0	19.0	Shillong	—	20.2	10.5
Hyderabad	—	32.9	19.7	Shimla	0.4	18.2	8.8
Imphal	—	28.7	11.0	Srinagar	0.6	14.9	7.0
Jaipur	—	32.8	17.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	22.4
Kochi	—	34.0	26.6	Tiruchi	—	33.9	22.0
Kohima	—	—	—	Vijayawada	—	35.4	19.8
Kolkata	—	34.0	23.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	—	44	264	226	
Bengaluru	2	34	8	87	146	
Chennai	27	36	41	150	110	
Delhi	20	75	37	353	242	
Hyderabad	5	52	45	143	145	
Kolkata	29	28	18	78	104	
Lucknow	14	36	62	171	148	
Mumbai	20	59	72	338	224	
Pune	94	136	114	248	156	
Visakhapatnam	7	62	46	214	264	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Samastipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 358 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Mysuru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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3rd Floor, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Centenary Building, Perasiriyar Anbazhagan Kalvi Valagam, (DPI Campus), College Road, Chennai - 600 006.

Advertisement No.2/2023 Dated : 03.03.2023

CORRIGENDUM

In the Advertisement Number of 01/2023, dated **01.03.2023** issued by the Teachers Recruitment Board, the expression.

"Sealed Tenders are invited upto **05.00 pm** on **20.03.2023" shall be read as**

"Sealed Tenders are invited upto 04.00 pm on 20.03.2023".

Secretary TRB.

DIPR/1384/TENDER/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

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E-Tender Notice No. P&P/OPP-ASPT/EFB Press/ 493 /2022-23 Dt: 02.03.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

TSOILFED, Hyderabad invites E-tenders from potential and reputed Manufacturers or Suppliers for the **Design, Supply, Fabrication, Erection & Commissioning of EFB Shredder Fiber Press of Model: KH-777-8 Make: YKL SDN BHD, Malaysia along with Motor & Gearbox** and all necessary mechanical and electrical connections at Oil Palm Plant, Ashwaraopet, Bhadradhi Kothagudem Dist., Telangana State. **NOTE: (1)** Publish of E-Tender: **03.03.2023 at 5.00 PM** & Last Date for uploading E Tenders: **16.03.2023 at 3:00 PM. (2)** All Details related to EMD & Tender Document will be available in e-Tender Website : **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-600010
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

Short e-TENDER NOTICE

No.: BS7/007460/2023 Dated: 02.03.2023

Short E-Tender No: TNCSC/22-23/ET- 188-189

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online Electronic tenders for the supply of **500 MTs.** of Black Bengal Gram (Whole) and **450 MTs.** of Green Gram (Whole) at all 39 Regions for PTMGRNMP schemes and ICDS..

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc** and also available in **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005 e-Mail: **mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in**

Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **Upto 11.00 A.M. on 20.03.2023**

DIPR/1373/Tender/2023 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬಹುಮಹಡಿಗಳ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಡಾ॥ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–2237 4981. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : om.dwcd@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : WCD/STR/VOUT/01/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28–02–2023

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಚಾಲಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯಮೂಲ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷ ಅಥವಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ತಿಳಿಸುವ ಮುಂದಿನ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ (ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.) 1999 ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28–02–2023 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 08–03–2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ **ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬಹುಮಹಡಿಗಳ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 001** ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 080–22374981 / 2235778.**

ಸಹಿ/– ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಬೆಂ.ಸ./5026/ಮಾಣಿಪಾಲ್/2022–23

Government of Karnataka
(Water Resources Department)
Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM)
1st Floor, KSFC Bhavan, #1/1, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-52

No:ACIWRM/CE/MP/2022-23/01 Dated: 28.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

Government of Karnataka, Advanced Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ACIWRM) under Water Resources Department, invites percentage tender to supply manpower services through outsource in Two cover system from eligible Tenderer/Agency/Firm for **"Supply of Manpower Personnel of different category to ACIWRM, Bengaluru".** For more details, visit e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 02.03.2023.** Tenders should be submitted electronically only through e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Interested Tenderer/Agency/Firm will need to register on the e-Procurement portal to participate. The details are also available on **https://www.waterresources.karnataka.gov.in** and **https://aciwrm.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarification can be sought at the following mail ID **registrar@aciwrm.org**

Instruction to Tenderers note: 1) Any further updates/changes will be updated and notified in the e-proc. portal only 2) All other terms and conditions remain same. 3) For further information contact the ACIWRM office during office hours.

Sd/- Registrar/Chief Engineer ACIWRM, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/RO5034/AAPL/2022-23

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-43/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed manufactueres under tow part bidding system for supply of 160MVA, 220/132/33 kV Auto transformers at an estimated cost of Rs.38,85,25,145/-(Including GST).

2)E-Tender Call Notice No.36/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed manufacturers under two part bidding systemtowards Procurement of different types & ratings of insulators for sub-station and EHT Lines at an estimated cost of Rs.7,36,92,682/-.

3)E-Tender Call Notice No.ED-SZ-BAM-08/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed contractors under single stage two envelope system for PCC work in 220kV and 132kV Switchyard and water supply points for earth pits in 33kV, 132kV and 220kV switchyards at 220/132/33kV Grid S/S, Narendrapur under EHT O&M Division, Berhampur at an estimated cost of Rs.1,77,35,167/- including GST under ED, Southern Zone, Berhampur.

4)E-Tender Call Notice No.ED-SZ-BAM-09/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed contractors under single stage two envelope system for Painting of 341 Numbers of MS tower members within the Loc No.1049 to 1454 of 220kV Therubali-Laxmipur-Jayanagar DC line under EHT O&M Division Therubali at an estimated cost of Rs.54,41,735/- Including GST under ED, Southern Zone, Berhampur.

5)E-Tender Call Notice No.ED-SZ-BAM-10/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed contractors under single stage two envelope system for Cleaning, up-keeping & Sanitation works of various office buildings and control-rooms and courtyard area under Southern Zone, OPTCL, Jeypore (Lot-I) & Berhampur (Lot-II) at an estimated cost of Rs.1,44,07,349/- including GST under ED, Southern Zone, Berhampur.

6)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-53/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed firms/agencies under two part bidding system for providing house-keeping services of Transit House of OPTCL Hqrs. Office Bhubaneswar, Guest House of Puri, Rourkela & Berhampur at an estimated cost of Rs.74,30,250/-.

7)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-54/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed firms/agencies under two part bidding system for providing catering services on contract (outsourced) basis at Transit House Bhubaneswar, guest House of Puri, Rourkela and Berhampur at an estimated cost of Rs.38,81,139/-.

8)E-Tender Call Notice No.47/2022-23: Bids invited from reputed firms/agencies under two part bidding system for supply of 08 numbers 40MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformer at an estimated cost of Rs.35,55,93,928/-.

Complete set of bidding documents are available on: **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal, and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in.** **HIPR-64/2022-23**

CAD-5010 OIPR-04011/11/0188/2223

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1: Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2: Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
222323 004555	Construction of male bachelor's hostel (Phase I - 15 rooms) at TNPL Unit II	22.03.2023
222323 004548	Construction of Housing Colony (Phase III) at TNPL Unit II	18.03.2023
222313 007259	Replacement of Galvalume Sheets with Fibre Cement Sheet (FCS) in Paper Machine #1 & 2 at +25 mtr level in TNPL Unit I (Phase I)	16.03.2023
222323 004557	Condition Monitoring of Rotating Equipments in Pulp and Soda Recovery Plant at TNPL Unit-II, Trichy	17.03.2023
Email:	222323004555; 4548; 222313007259-pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in 222323004557-tos.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com/ www.tenders.tn.gov.in/ www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

DIPR/1333/Tender/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ದೂ. 08232–225046, email: vcdnmndya@gmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 15/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27–02–2023
ಏಕ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ

ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 18,15ರ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರಿಂದ 10,13,16,19ರ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2, ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 11, 12, 14, 17, 20 ರ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು** ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 4701 ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಮೊತ್ತವೇ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 05 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 11.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 498.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಹಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕ್ವಾರೀಸ್/ಕ್ಲಾರಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್‌ಗಾಗಿ as per e-portal ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ **as per e-portal** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ as per e-portal ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08232–225046 ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– **ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,**
ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ (ನಿ.), ವಿ.ಸಿ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Gadag
Phone: 08372-297256. Email -id :- ee.rws.gdg@gmail.com

Tender Notification No :EE/RDWSS/GDG/AE/TND/2022-23 /1490 Date: 02.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Gadag invites Work tender from eligible PRED Contractor related to RDWS&S Division, Gadag District, for the works with details as given below

Sl No	Indent No	Amount Put to Tender	EMD Amount
1	O&M FOR COMBINED WATER SUPPLYSCHEME TO SARJAPUR AND OTHER 16 VILLAGES IN RON TALUK GADAG DISTRICT	54.20 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು	1.09 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

The eligible bidders are required to submit through E-Procurement mode only & for More details can be had from this office and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking **List of Tenders** which will link to all Dept. works list.The date of starting of tender is **03.03.2023**, Last date for tender queries **06.03.2023**, Last date for Bid Submission is **10.03.2023**, Date of opening of technical Bid is **11.03.2023** & Date of opening of financial Bid is **13.03.2023**

Sd/- Executive Engineer RDW&S Division, Gadag,

DIPR/GADAG/KSMCA/708/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport
Baithkol, Karwar- 581302

No.PIWT-61/ WKS-II /2022 Dated: 23.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE (2nd CALL)
(Only in E-Procurement) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, short term tender is invited in E-Procurement to execute below mentioned work. To participate in E-Procurement, and for more information visit **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** website. For further Extension, if any refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

Name of work: Procurement, installation, testing and commissioning of Navigation channel marking UV Stabilized polyethylene Buoys at Karwar Port, Karnataka, **(IDD/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT94/CALL-2),** Amount put to Tender: **Rs.59,00,000.00 (Excluding GST)**: EMD: **1,18,000.00,** Last date for Queries: **04.03.2023 @ 17:00 hours,** Last Date for receipt of Tender: **07.03.2023 @ 17:00 hours**

Important dates: (1) Access to e-tender document from **23.02.2023 to 07.03.2023 up to 5pm.** (2) Submission of completed e- tendering document from **23.02.2023 to 07.03.2023 up to 5 pm.** For further details and general enquiries, prospective bidders may contact the undersigned office (phone No: **08382-221035/221494** and E-mail: **piwtdev.wks@gmail.com**) during working hours.

Sd/- Port Engineer,
Ports & Inland Water Transport Karwar

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/1047/22-23 Dt.27.02.2023

Seeping saffron

The BJP is primed to be back in power in the three northeast States

Voters in two northeastern States, Nagaland and Tripura, gave the BJP and its partners another term instead of bringing in the change their challengers had promised. For the BJP, the results are a reward for its sustained work, and enhances its claim to be a preeminent national party. In Tripura, the party and its regional ally, the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura, won 33 seats, nine fewer than in 2018 but two more than the majority mark. The seat-sharing deal that the Left Front and Congress struck did not work for the Left but gave the Congress a fresh lease of life. The Left Front won 11, five fewer than the 16 it won in 2018 while Congress won three as against none five years ago. The Tipra Motha, a new party, won 13 of the 42 seats it contested, in the tribal regions. The BJP's victory can be attributed to an improved law-and-order situation, cash incentives such as a monthly social allowance of ₹2,000 for the poor and providing 1.6 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The party also appears to have consolidated the non-tribal voters who are unnerved by the rise of the Motha.

In Meghalaya, charges of corruption against the National People's Party (NPP) by allies and rivals alike did not work. The NPP won 26 seats, six more than in 2018 while its allies in the outgoing government, the United Democratic Party and the BJP, won 11 and two, respectively; they all fought the election separately. The NPP's pan-Meghalaya presence across two hill regions dominated by the Garo and the Khasi-Jaintia communities kept it in good stead, while the Trinamool Congress's attempts to gain a foothold faltered as it was seen as a party from West Bengal. The Congress, the only party that had acceptance across the State earlier, is now a pale shadow of itself, winning five seats, a huge fall from its 2018 tally of 21. The Christian community in Meghalaya continues to be sceptical of the BJP but its counterparts in Nagaland have warmed up to it. The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and the BJP have retained power in Nagaland, a State which had ceased to have an Opposition in the outgoing Assembly. The BJP equalled its 2018 score of 12 seats while the NDPP won 25, seven more than in 2018. The rest of the seats in the 60-member Assembly have gone to smaller allies of the BJP, ruling out the possibility of any opposition in the new Assembly too.

Positing India's stand on the Ukraine war

Stanly Johny

On February 23, 2023, on the eve of the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution, calling for an end to the war. The resolution was favoured by 141 members and opposed by seven, while 32 states abstained. Unsurprisingly, India was one among the 32. This is in line with the position India has been taking on the Ukraine crisis from the beginning. India has refused to condemn Russia for the invasion; it has refused to join the West's sanctions; has stepped up buying Russian fuel at a discounted price, and has consistently abstained from UN votes on the war.

India's position has triggered sharp responses in the West. Before the war, there was much debate among the global strategic commentariat about India's irreversible shift towards the West. However, after the war began, many wondered why the world's largest democracy did not condemn Russia. For some others, India was "financing" Vladimir Putin's war by buying Russian oil. Why did India take a different line from that of its partners in the West? To understand India's position, one has to look at how India sees the war.

Democracies versus autocracies

For U.S. President Joe Biden, as Simon Tisdall argued in *The Guardian* ("Outdated and out of time ...", February 26), this is a global crusade for democracy. He called the Russian invasion "a test for the ages". For the Atlanticists in general, the war by an authoritarian Russia on a "democratic" Ukraine is an affront to global democracy. According to this narrative, anything less than a complete Russian defeat would mean "the end of the international order". So, to save global democracy, the rules-based order and international law, all democratic and law-adhering states should take a position against Russia and join the western coalition.

Is this a battle between democracies and autocracies? Granted, an overwhelming majority of nations have supported UNGA resolutions calling for the war to be brought to an end. But beyond the UN votes, the U.S. has hardly managed to mobilise democracies outside its traditional western alliance system against Russia. India and South Africa, large democracies from Asia and Africa, have consistently abstained from votes at the UN and refused to join the sanctions – because the sanctions were unilateral, imposed by specific countries or blocs, without UN approval. Brazil, the largest democracy in South America, has not joined the sanctions; so have many smaller democracies (and non-democracies) across geographies. Even some countries that are part of the western alliance system, say Israel and Turkey, are reluctant to join Mr. Biden's crusade. Most of these countries see the war as a European problem between two former Soviet countries with its roots going back to the end of the Cold War. For them, it is less about global democracy than the post-Cold War security architecture in Europe.

> New Delhi, which wants the world to get back to focusing on more pressing issues, should stick to its pragmatic neutrality and push for a practical solution to the crisis

Morality versus national interests

Even if this is not a war between democracies and autocracies, there is still the question about morality. There is no doubt here that Russia has violated the sovereignty of Ukraine. And Russia's annexation of Ukrainian territories is a clear violation of international laws. So, how can countries such as India ignore this fact and move on? India has repeatedly stated in the UN that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected. But a key dilemma before any country in international relations is that when it comes to specific actions in the event of a clash between moral positions and national interests, it is about which path they should take.

For the U.S. and much of Europe, there is a convergence of their moral positions and foreign policy objectives in the case of the Ukraine war. The U.S. wants to "weaken" Russia, as U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said, and Europe wants to make Russia's invasion costly so that they believe Moscow would be deterred in the future. So, the moral line they take serves their strategic purpose. However, this position has hardly been consistent especially when there are clashes between values and interests.

In 2003, the U.S. launched its illegal invasion of Iraq, violating the country's sovereignty. In 2011, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) turned a UN Security Council resolution to establish a no-fly zone in Libya into a full-scale invasion. Right now, the U.S. has illegally placed its troops in Syria. Or, take the case of Israel, which has illegally annexed East Jerusalem and Syria's Golan Heights and keeps building illegal Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. The U.S. has recognised Israel's annexation of Golan and moved its embassy to Jerusalem. While Russia is being pounded with sanctions, Israel is getting billions worth of military aid every year from the U.S.

Another case is that of Turkey, a NATO member, which has illegally seized Syrian territories but faces no international ire.

In other words, when there was a divergence between national interests and moral concepts, the West, without qualms, embraced the first. Then why should not emerging countries such as India put their national interest at the core of their policy making? But it does not mean that India should completely side-step the moral question. In 2003, when India came under considerable pressure from the George W. Bush administration to send "peacekeeping troops" to an American-occupied Iraq, it was an emphatic no from the then government under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Likewise, India, by no means should help Russia militarily in the Ukraine war.

What New Delhi wants

So, what are India's national interests here? Ties with Russia, a historical partner, are important for India in many ways. One is energy – discounted fuel coming in from Russia is a relief for India, the world's fifth largest economy, that meets over 80% of its fuel needs through imports. But the energy ties are largely opportunistic – even if supplies from Russia are disrupted, India could find alternatives for a higher price. Defence supplies, however, tell a different tale – Russia has fulfilled over 46% of India's defence needs in the last five years. There is a sound argument that India should diversify its source of defence imports, but such a change would take time.

Third, at a time when Russia is deepening its ties with China, which is India's main competitor, India should ask itself whether it should retain its leverage over Russia through existing ties or lose it completely by joining the western coalition over moral commitments.

Furthermore, to manage its continental interests and tackle its continental security concerns, India has to work with powers in the Eurasian landmass where the U.S. is practically absent, especially after its disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. Russia plays a key role in India's continental foreign policy.

Lastly, what is India's preferred outcome in the Ukraine war? Neither the weakening of Russia nor the destruction and splintering of Ukraine is in its interests. What India wants is an immediate end to the war and a new security equilibrium between great powers so that the global economy could be stabilised and the world could focus on more pressing problems – from climate change to UN reforms. So, if it wants peace and a resolution to the conflict, as Jawaharlal Nehru stated in 1957 in the wake of the Soviet intervention in Hungary, "it doesn't help calling names and condemning" any power. Instead, India should stick to its pragmatic neutrality, rooted in realism, and continue to push for a practical solution to the Ukraine crisis.

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Data dissonance

Policy makers must buttress domestic demand to drive growth

The National Statistical Office's latest release of GDP data estimates a further deceleration in growth in the October-December 2022 quarter, a slowdown that the government's Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) has attributed largely to an upward revision in the year-earlier period's figures. Gross domestic product is posited to have expanded by 4.4% from the year-earlier quarter, an appreciable deceleration from the 6.3% pace logged in the preceding three months and lagging the 5.2% growth of the October-December 2021 period as well. Gross Value Added (GVA) growth slowed to 4.6%, from the second quarter's 5.5%, as the estimates for manufacturing suggested a continuing contraction (minus 1.1%), albeit narrower than July-September's shrinkage (minus 3.6%). Sequentially too manufacturing appears to have shrunk (minus 2.4%). Growth in three of the five services sectors including the crucial trade, hotels, transport and communications as well as the financial, real estate and professional services categories also slowed sharply from the second quarter, signalling that the pent-up demand seen in the contact-intensive sectors, which had been worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, had begun to wane. On the expenditure front, the mainstay private final consumption expenditure lost some momentum with its percentage share of overall GDP easing to 61.6%, from 63% in the year-earlier quarter. That this happened in the traditional festival quarter when consumption spending usually peaks ought to be cause for concern and suggests that the relentless pace of retail inflation is eroding consumptive capacity.

The CEA, however, has suggested that if the year-earlier manufacturing output data used to calculate the year-on-year growth had remained unrevised, the sector would have actually logged an expansion of 3.8%, instead of the 1.1% shrinkage that the NSO estimates show. Similarly, he has asserted that private consumption spending would have logged third-quarter growth of about 6%, instead of 2.1% that the latest NSO release indicates, if the data prior to revision had been used instead. Still, even at 6%, consumption spending growth would lag the second quarter's 8.8% expansion, making it clear that momentum is flagging. Gross fixed capital formation, which reflects investment by businesses in new capacity, contracted sequentially, with its share of GDP slipping to 31.8%, from 34.2% in the July-September period. With global demand weakening considerably and unlikely to recover over the course of 2023, and the risks from likely unfavourable weather conditions raising uncertainty over farm output in the coming months, policy makers will need to do all they can to buttress domestic demand. That the data revisions have essentially made it that much harder to draw meaningful conclusions, spotlights the challenges to crafting policy solutions, as top central bank officials have frequently pointed out.

South Asia's human capital is the resilience it needs

Martin Raiser

is Vice President, South Asia, The World Bank

The last few years have ushered in a harsh new reality where crises are the norm rather than the exception. Pandemics, economic slumps and extreme weather events were once tail-end risks, but all three have hit South Asia in rapid succession since 2020. COVID-19 alone put millions of lives and livelihoods at risk, and its impacts have already undermined decades of development gains.

This is deeply distressing because the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate – their human capital – is a critical source of the resilience that countries rely on for recovery. To strengthen resilience and protect the well-being of future generations, governments across South Asia need to take urgent policy action and invest in human capital.

An underutilised asset

South Asia's people are its biggest asset but remain wastefully underutilised. With nearly half its population under the age of 24 and over one million young people set to enter the labour force every month until 2030, the region could reap an enviably high demographic dividend. But South Asia is also home to over one third of the world's stunted children. And a child born in the region today can, by the age of 18, expect to attain only 48% of their full productive potential. If the quantity and quality of South Asia's human capital were to improve, regional GDP per worker could double.

These numbers are jarring but will be hard to shift without more resources. South Asian governments on average spend just 1% of GDP on health and 2.5% on education. In comparison, the global average is 5.9% on health and 3.7% on education.

Against this background, the COVID-19 pandemic, which pushed an additional 35 million people across South Asia into extreme poverty, dealt an unprecedented blow to the region's human capital. Among its most woeful impacts is a rise in learning poverty, or the inability to read and understand a simple text by age 10. While around the world, on average, schools remained closed for in-person learning between 2020 and 2022 for 141 days, in South Asia they were shut for 225 days. Coupled with ineffective remote instruction, this increased South Asia's learning poverty from 60% to 78%.

> In an increasingly volatile world, a robust human development system in the region will ensure that lives and livelihoods are protected

The poorest and most vulnerable people fell further behind. For example, in Bangladesh, the poorest students lost 50% more in terms of learning than the richest students. Several countries still show little to no signs of recovery, and South Asia's students could lose up to 14.4% of their future earnings.

Interventions that can make a difference

While the outlook is grim, it is important to remember that well-designed and implemented interventions can make a difference if governments act fast. Recent evidence suggests that even simple and low-cost education programmes can lead to sizable gains in skills. In Bangladesh, for example, attending a year of additional pre-school through two-hour sessions significantly improved literacy, numeracy, and social-development scores. Meanwhile, in Tamil Nadu, six months of extra remedial classes after school helped students catch up on about two-thirds of lost learning linked to 18 months of school closures. And in Nepal, government teachers ran a phone tutoring programme that helped increase students' foundational numeracy by 30%.

Given the high returns to human capital, the huge losses inflicted by the pandemic, and the region's vulnerability to a variety of shocks, even with constrained government budgets, scaling up these interventions should be a no brainer.

Globally, countries that have systems in place to support individuals and families before a crisis strikes, can better protect their citizens during the crisis.

A new World Bank study, "Collapse and Recovery: how COVID eroded human capital and what to do about it", which analyses the pandemic's impacts on young people, stresses the multi-dimensional and complementary nature of human development. The health, education, and skills people acquire at various stages of their lives, build and depend on each other. To be effective, human development systems must recognise and exploit these overlapping connections. In other words, they should be agile, resilient and adaptive.

Use data and technology

Such systems will help countries better respond to future shocks as well. Crises are unpredictable and often present rapidly changing circumstances. A well-functioning system is one that can spring into action the moment a shock strikes, ensure essential services such as health care and learning remain uninterrupted, and have the flexibility to evolve as needs change, such as social protection systems that ramp up to meet urgent needs. Since services are provided by different individual sectors, human development systems must be able to coordinate efficiently across sectors. Lastly, as data and technology play a crucial role in the delivery of services, human development systems should ensure they are effectively used.

The road ahead for South Asia is rocky. The next crisis may be just around the corner. A robust human development system would not only mitigate the damage but also help ensure lives and livelihoods are protected. It could provide the resilience South Asia needs to prosper in an increasingly volatile world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

North-east results

For a party that continues to be in continuous election mode riding on the crest of the unabated popularity of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, together with its focus on the development agenda, the election results from the north-eastern States will be music to the ears of the BJP, which has now consolidated its dominance in hitherto uncharted territory. The verdicts also come as a setback to the efforts by the Opposition to counter the BJP in 2024. The underlying lesson is that what matters to the common man is his bread and butter issues and the ability of leaders to fulfil his basic needs and aspirations. The Opposition needs to strengthen itself in the grassroots if it is to remain relevant.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

Virus origins

There are deep tensions between the two world powers, the United States and China. The investigation into the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to be surrounded in mystery. The stream of accusations, whataboutery and propaganda will not lead to any good and is a form of political games. There needs to be a deep and unbiased investigation. Without Beijing's cooperation, the subject will remain a mystery: was it from a laboratory experiment, or from a seafood market? After the deep losses across the world, the right to credible information is a most fundamental right for all world communities as far as this pandemic is concerned.

Tanusri Yadavalli,
Bengaluru

Whatever the cause of the COVID-19 outbreak pandemic, the fact is that the pandemic paralysed the global order for over two years. Instead of accusing each other, the U.S. and China must work on solutions to try and ensure that the world is not subject to the trauma it underwent. Transparency is the first step.

P. Paramasivan,
Chennai

The cancer fight

Cases of cancer are on the rise, especially in the age group of 20 to 40 years. In the ordeal of the treatment, the entire family is shattered. It is difficult when it affects individuals without the support of family. Advanced treatment options such as proton beam therapy need to be made accessible to those fighting cancer.

Dr. B. Subbulakshmi,
Erode, Tamil Nadu

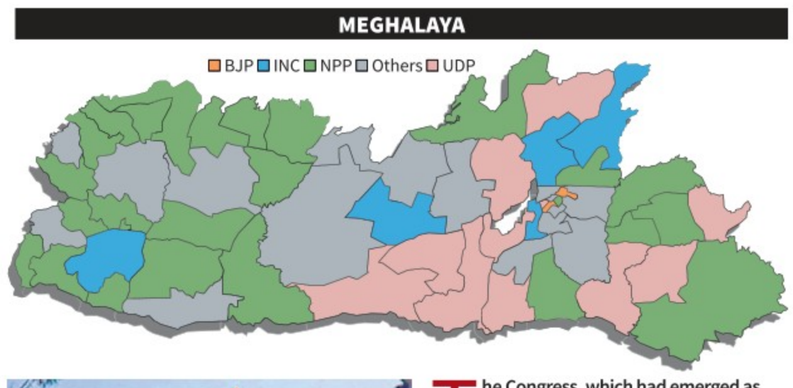
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Status quo in the northeast

The BJP managed to hold on to Tripura despite the threat posed by the tribal dominant party TIPRA Motha, which ate into the BJP's and the Left's vote share in the seats reserved for STs. In Nagaland, the Nationalist Democratic People's Party-BJP alliance comfortably crossed the half-way mark. It made further inroads into the State by increasing its vote share and decimating the Naga People's Front. The National People's Party emerged as the single largest party with higher seat and vote shares in Meghalaya.

Jasmin Nihalani, Rebecca Rose Varghese, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Srinivasan Ramani

MEGHALAYA



The Congress, which had emerged as the single-largest party in the 2018 polls, lost 16 seats and managed to win only 5 this time. The NPP, led by Conrad Sangma, has emerged as the single-largest party this time, though it may need the support of other parties similar to the 2018 situation, to form the government. The NPP won big in many seats. In 14 of them it won by a margin of over 10%, most of which came at the expense of the Congress. The Congress lost 15.3% points of its earlier vote share

Wins and vote%

Both the NPP and the UDP gained from the votes lost by the Congress

	Seats won		Vote %	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
BJP	2	0	9.3	-0.3
INC	5	-16	13.1	-15.3
NPP	26	+7	31.5	+10.9
UDP	11	+5	16.2	+4.6
Oth.	15	+4	29.8	+0.2

Victory margin

In 14 seats, the NPP managed to win by a margin of over 10% in 2023, whereas it managed to do so in only 3 seats in 2018. In 22 seats the victory margin was less than 5%

↓↑ indicates change in number of seats from 2018

	<2%		2-5%		5-10%		>10%	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
BJP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
INC	1	+1	1	-5	1	-5	2	-7
NPP	2	-1	5	-2	5	-1	14	+11
UDP	4	+2	2	+2		-3	5	+4
Oth.	5	-1	2	-1	4	+2	4	+4

Vote % ranges

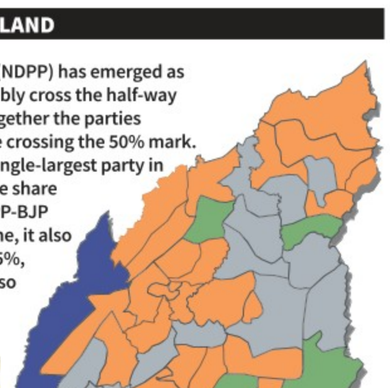
In 30 seats, the NPP secured a vote share of over 35%, while in 2018 it could do so in only 10 seats. In 41 seats Congress secured <20% votes compared to only 18 such seats in 2018

↓↑ indicates change in number of seats from 2018

	<20%		20-35%		35-50%		>50%	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
BJP	43	+8	14	+6	1	-2	1	+1
INC	41	+23	13	-7	5	-11		-5
NPP	8	-13	18	-2	28	+18	2	+2
UDP	25	+6	10	0	8	+5	2	0
Oth.	174	-23	20	-8	13	+8	2	+2

NAGALAND

The Nationalist Democratic People's Party (NDPP) has emerged as the single-largest party, and will comfortably cross the half-way mark with its alliance partner, the BJP. Together the parties secured 37 seats with their combined vote share crossing the 50% mark. The Naga People's Front (NPF), which was the single-largest party in 2018 has been reduced to two seats, with its vote share dropping over 30% points. Not only did the NDPP-BJP alliance manage to increase its seat tally this time, it also won 12 seats with a vote margin of more than 25%, significantly higher than in 2018. The alliance also increased its overall vote share by more than 10% points



Wins and vote%

The NPF's massive loss benefited the ruling NDPP alliance and smaller parties

* indicates change from 2018 in % points

	Seats won		Vote %	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑*
NDPP+	37	+8	51.1%	+10.5
NPF	2	-25	7.1%	-31.7
NPP	5	+3	5.8%	-1.1
Oth.	16	+14	32.5%	+20.9

NDPP and the BJP are in alliance

Victory margin

Both the NDPP and the BJP won big in many seats. The alliance won 12 seats with >25% vote margin, while they did so only in two seats in 2018

↓↑ indicates change in number of seats from 2018

	<5%		5-15%		15-25%		>25%	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
NDPP+	6	-5	11	0	7	+3	12	+10
NPF	1	-10	1	-8	0	-4	0	-3
NPP	2	+2	3	+2	0	-1	0	0
Oth.	10	+10	4	+3	1	0	1	+1

Vote % ranges

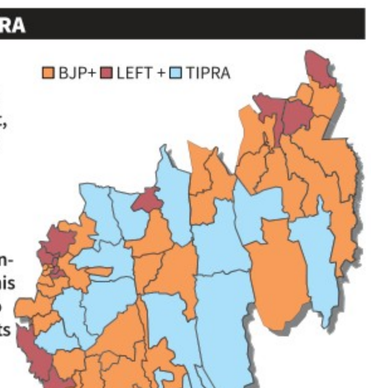
The NDPP-BJP alliance secured over 50% vote share in 27 seats, 13 more than what it managed in 2018. The NPF secured <20% votes in 13 seats this time

↓↑ indicates change in number of seats from 2018

	<20%		20-35%		35-50%		>50%	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
NDPP+	0	-6	4	-4	28	-3	27	13
NPF	13	+7	3	-10	5	-20	1	-13
NPP	5	-11	1	-3	2	-1	4	+3
Oth.	84	+3	13	+3	17	+13	12	+12

TRIPURA

The Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies crossed the half-way mark securing 33 seats with a vote share of over 40%. The Left Front, whose 25-year reign ended in 2018, lost two more seats in 2023 even after forming an alliance with the Congress. Vote shares of both the BJP+ and the Left-Congress alliance fell by over 10% points each compared to 2018. These losses were more pronounced in ST reserved seats as votes were transferred to the TIPRA Motha which made its debut this year and won 13 seats. The TIPRA's wins were also big with a victory margin of over 25% in seven seats



* indicates change from 2018 in % points

Wins and vote %

The TIPRA gained vote share at the expense of both the BJP+ and Left+

	Seats won		Vote %	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑*
BJP+	33	-10	40.2%	-10.2
Left+	14	-2	35.4%	-11.3
TIPRA	13	+13	19.7%	+19.7
Oth.	0	0	4.7%	+1.8

Victory margin

In 14 seats the BJP+ secured a close win with a victory margin of <5%, while the TIPRA had a comforable victory in seven seats with a margin of >25%

	<5%		5-15%		15-25%		>25%	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
BJP+	14	+5	14	-10	5	-2	0	-3
Left+	10	+4	2	-5	2	-1	0	0
TIPRA	2	+2	3	+3	1	+1	7	+7
Oth.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vote % ranges

The TIPRA secured over 50% of the votes in 8 seats whereas the BJP+ did so only in 2 seats this time, compared to 32 such seats in 2018

	<20%		20-35%		35-50%		>50%	
	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑	2023	↓↑
BJP+	7	+7	8	+6	44	+19	2	-30
Left+	10	-48	18	+14	26	-20	5	-4
TIPRA	18	+18	12	+12	4	+4	8	+8
Oth.	155	-20	1	+1	1	+1	0	0

Vote % ranges

The TIPRA secured over 44% of the votes in the seats reserved for ST, gaining equally from the BJP+ and the Left+, both of which lost over 20% points in vote share

	Gen		SC		ST	
	2023	↓↑*	2023	↓↑*	2023	↓↑*
BJP+	45.8%	-3.9	46.4%	-4.1	28.3%	-23.4
Left+	41.2%	-7.0	43.2%	-4.3	22.0%	-21.5
TIPRA	8.1%	+8.1	7.0%	+7.0	44.5%	+44.5
Oth.	4.9%	+2.8	3.4%	+1.5	5.2%	+0.4

NOTEBOOK

The uncertain act of building trust with sources

Nearly everyone who decides to speak to journalists takes a leap of faith

Abhinay Lakshman
abhinay.lakshman@thehindu.co.in

From marginalised students trying to open up about discrimination at top government institutes, to Muslim families defending their homes from mobs, to government sources putting their jobs and families on the line, nearly everyone who decides to speak to journalists takes a leap of faith. It is faith that their decision to trust us will not come back to haunt them.

So, how do we as journalists win this trust? How often are we required to place our trust in the subject in exchange for it? And is it reasonable to expect that this trust can be earned at all times, for all stories and from all subjects?

In February 2020, when Delhi was seeing its worst riots in decades, I was in Kardampuri between two mobs. One comprised Hindu residents, extremists, and uniformed law enforcement officers. The other consisted of Muslim residents who were desperately trying their best to defend their neighbourhoods and lanes.

After spending an hour in the midst of the first mob, I walked towards the Muslim homes. The men and boys on the streets, who had no reason to trust me, began to warm up to me after half an hour of questioning. I had to trust them in exchange. As bullets and stones flew around us, a Muslim man, who was around my age, placed his helmet on my head and said, "I'll take you in. Say your name is Rehan if anyone asks." He was risking his life by bringing an outsider into the bylanes of Kardampuri, where eyes narrowed with suspicion, and dread of strangers filled the air, and I was too, by going along. On the other hand, no matter what I said or did, no person who was part of the Hindu mob would trust me enough to let me record them.

While I would like to think that the Muslim men trusted me because I trusted them to protect me during the riots, I cannot help but wonder if they trusted me, a journalist, because they couldn't trust anyone else. Regardless, their trust is the reason I could do my job that day.

However, in situations where the conflict is not as immediate or threatening for us as it is for the subjects, such as a government source, eliciting trust is like walking a tightrope. We journalists want the subject to trust us without letting them in on our own thinking process and the source wants to let us in on the condition that the origin of the information is obfuscated. Sometimes we are afraid that our opinion might discourage subjects from speaking; at other times, we are scared that the outcome of one fruitful conversation might lead to sources closing off altogether. Both these experiences are far too common for any journalist reporting on the government. Yet this is the tightrope on which the journalist and the source must dance, hoping that a trampoline lies beneath in case of a fall. Ethically, the only way to begin this dance is to ensure that the trampoline exists and hope that the source will once again get onto the tightrope.

There are also times when it does not matter whether the trampoline exists. When Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi students spoke to me about their experience of casteism at the IITs, what stood out was that they were exercising their agency in telling me their stories. All I could do was to ensure that the subjects had full control over the exact circumstances in which they shared their stories. For instance, some wanted a friend to be on conference call as they spoke, while most sought an assurance that they would remain anonymous in the story.

But sometimes, even when the failsafe exists, even when we trust the subject with bits of our own lives, and even if we belong to a well-known and reliable organisation, earning trust can still be an uncertain exercise. This is unnerving, but it is an uncertainty that we have to make our peace with, for the subject's decision has nothing to do with the journalist.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A riot of colour and sticks

People of Nandgaon and Barsana, the towns associated with Lord Krishna and Radha, play holi during Lathmar Holi, in Nandgaon, Mathura. Lathmar Holi takes place days before the actual festival. In this ancient tradition, men splash colour while women playfully beat them with sticks and chase them away. Sandeep Saxena

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 3, 1973

UPSC English test: MPs' protest rejected

New Delhi, March 2: The action of a candidate who tore up a question paper in English in the Union Public Service Commission examination held on February 27 for stenographers here came up in the form of call attention motion in the Lok Sabha to-day. Mr. Shankar Dayal Singh, Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad and Mr. Bibhuti Mishra (all Congress) supporting the motive of the candidate said that it was unfair to the Hindi stenographers if they were forced to answer one paper in English when English stenographers were not required to answer any paper in Hindi. They said this was against the spirit of the Constitution and the Official Languages Act. The Minister of State for Home Affairs and the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Mr. R.N. Mirdha, said whatever might be the feelings of the members, the language policy of the Government was to have two languages – English and Hindi at the official level. This went side by side, he added. Mr. Mirdha said bulk of the work in the Central Secretariat was still being done in English and some knowledge of English by the stenographers was required.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 3, 1923

Empire forests

London, March 2: Presiding at the first annual meeting of the Empire Forestry Association at the Guildhall, the Prince of Wales said that he was very keenly interested in forestry. He had during the last three years unrivalled opportunities of realising the vast timber resources of the Empire and had the good fortune to visit the timber camps of Canada and Australia. Experts computed that the world would be faced with a timber shortage, if not famine, within 20 years..

From Page One

BJP and allies win Tripura, Nagaland

While the Left Front's tally fell in Tripura, the Congress gained from a seat-sharing agreement with the former, winning three of the 13 seats it contested. The grand old party drew a blank in 2018.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha attributed the party's victory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J.P. Nadda's leadership besides the legwork of its grassroots workers. Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, the chairman of TIPRA Motha, said his party did well to emerge as the second largest within two years of its birth. One of the factors that helped the BJP win is believed to be the consolidation of the non-tribal voters wary of the Greater Tipraland demand of the TIPRA Motha. Non-tribals dominate 40 seats in the State.

In Nagaland, the BJP-NDPP combine won 37 seats, while six other parties and Independents bagged the remaining 23 seats. The other parties include the Republican Party of India (Athawale) and the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), which won two seats each. These parties are associated with the BJP at the national level. The Congress didn't win any seat, while the Naga People's Front managed only two seats, 24 fewer than in 2018.

Coalition again

The National People's Party (NPP) led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma ended up with 26 seats, seven more than in 2018, while its main allies in the outgoing government, the United Democratic Party (UDP) and the BJP bagged 11 and two seats, respectively. There was, however, no pre-poll seat-sharing arrangement between the parties. "I thank the people for the mandate. But we are short of the majority mark. We will discuss with like-minded parties and decide how to go forward," he said after winning from the South Tura constituency.

The NPP has the choice of going with the UDP alone or three other regional parties with a total of eight seats, but the BJP is seen as crucial because small States in the northeast usually align with parties that rule at the Centre.

Mr. Sangma is said to have met his Assam counterpart, Himanta Biswa Sarma before the results were announced. The latter said the former called up Mr. Shah and sought the BJP's support. "J.P. Nadda, our national president, has advised the Meghalaya BJP unit to support the NPP in forming the government," Mr. Sarma said. Later, Meghalaya BJP president Ernest Mawrie issued a "letter of support" to the NPP "as directed by Nadda*ji*".

Panel of PM, CJI, Oppn. leader to pick CEC: SC

The court said "fierce independence, neutrality and honesty" envisaged in the institution of the Election Commission (EC) requires an end to government monopoly and "exclusive control" over appointments to the highest poll body.

The court said the high-powered committee would continue to advise the President on the appointment until Parliament enacts a law on the appointment process of Election Commissioners. CECs and Election Commissioners have so far been appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The judgment came on petitions filed through advocates Prashant Bhushan, Kaleeswaram Raj, Ashwini Upadhyay and senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayan for an accountable and transparent appointment process. The judgment has now brought the appointment process of CECs and Election Commissioners on a par with that of the CBI Director.

Justice K.M. Joseph, who authored the lead judgment for the five-member Bench, said the EC requires "honest, independent" Commissioners who could distinguish right from wrong, those who can "ordinarily and unrelentingly take on the high and mighty and persevere in the righteous path". In a separate opinion, Justice Ajay Rastogi added that the procedural safeguards in place for effecting the removal of a CEC should be extended to the Election Commissioners under the first proviso to Article 324(5) of the Constitution. A CEC, like Supreme Court judges, can be removed from office only by way of impeachment. However, no such protection of tenure is available to the Election Commissioners.

In his judgment, Justice Joseph said that in a substantive democracy, the power to vote is "more potent than the most powerful gun". People depend on an honest Election Commissioner, blessed with extraordinary powers, to guard the purity of the electoral process. "...A person who is weak-kneed before the powers that be cannot be appointed as an Election Commissioner. A person who is in a state of obligation or feels indebted to one who appointed him, fails the nation. Such a person cannot have a place in the conduct of elections which forms the foundation of democracy...," Justice Joseph wrote.

"...There is a crucial link between the independence of the Election Commission and the pursuit of power by parties, their consolidation and perpetuation... An insatiable quest to continue in the saddle requires a pliable Election Commission who functions as an unfair and biased overseer of the electoral process which lies at the very heart of democracy...," Justice Joseph observed.

Funds and autonomy

The court further made a "fervent appeal" to Parliament and the Union government to set up a permanent secretariat which draws its expenses directly from the Consolidated Fund of India and not the government.

Divisions between the West, Russia-China derail a joint statement at G-20 meeting

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov exchange sharp words despite PM Modi's appeal to rise above differences; India issues Chair's Summary naming Russia and China for not joining consensus on Ukraine, from Bali document

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Deep divisions between the United States-led Western countries and the Russia-China combine upended India's attempt to forge a consensus at the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Thursday.

The meeting in Delhi, which brought together the world's 20 most-developed economies, saw sharp words exchanged by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and a number of other Foreign Ministers, despite an appeal from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the start of the meeting to "rise above differences".

"We should not allow issues that we cannot resolve together to come in the way of those we can," said the Prime Minister in a reference to the divide over the Ukraine war, adding that he hoped that the meeting "in the land of Gandhi and the Buddha" would inspire the G-20 delegates to "focus not on what divides us, but on what unites us".

'Not an easy task'

"Our task was not an easy one given the state of polarisation in the world and we were not able to reach a complete consensus as we and a group of countries were able to do in Bali," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, disagreeing with the mediapersons who asked if he was "disappointed".

Eventually, the meeting chaired by Mr. Jaishankar ended with a "Chair's Summary and Outcome Document" issued by India, which, like the G-20 Finance Ministers' Meeting last week, named Russia and China as the reason the two paragraphs (three and four from G-20 Bali Document of 2022) pertaining to the war in Ukraine could not be reconciled.

Before the business: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the meeting. AFP

Bali declaration

Explaining the decision to shun language on Ukraine that he had accepted last year, Mr. Lavrov said, "The Bali Declaration took place half a year ago. A lot of events took place since then," indicating the Ukrainian President's announcement that he no longer would adhere to the Minsk Agreements with Russia, and pointing to the explosions on the Nord stream energy pipelines that Russia blames the U.S. carried out.

As the Indian negotiators failing to convince their Russian and Chinese counterparts to sign on to the language of last year's joint communique in Bali is a setback, New Delhi will have to do some heavy diplomatic lifting in the next few months, in order to have a joint communique at the G-20 leaders summit in September. However, Mr. Jaishankar pointed out that despite the differences, negotiators who tried to resolve issues by working through the nights on February 28 and March 1, had been able to achieve consensus on all issues of concern to the Global South.

U.S. response

Agreeing with Mr. Jaishankar, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the lack of a joint communique at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting or going forward at the G-20 leaders summit was not an "issue" if there was consensus between most countries.

"As long as there's consensus that includes all the members of the G-20 minus one or two, and they commit to implementing it, the process can still go ahead," he said in response to a question from *The Hindu*.

The conference, however, also witnessed a few dramatic moments when the video feed that was not meant for the media was briefly telecast that showed the British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly criticising Russia for President Vladimir Putin's military campaign against Ukraine, before it was abruptly cut.

Delivering his speech in which he strongly articulated the Russian position on the Ukraine war, Mr. Lavrov "apologised" to the Indian hosts on "behalf of the West" citing "indecent behaviour" by a few Western delegates at the meeting of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on February 24 where the Russian delegation was reportedly heckled and intimidated by a Western official over the situation in Ukraine.

India, Italy elevate ties, sign MoU on defence cooperation

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Ending the chill in the bilateral relationship in the past few years, in what Foreign Secretary Vinay M. Kwatra described as "legacy issues" now behind, India and Italy on Thursday announced the elevation of the bilateral relationship to the level of strategic partnership while also concluding a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation.

"Today, we are announcing the establishment of a 'Startup Bridge' between India and Italy. Another important area of our mutual cooperation is defence. We have also decided to organise the joint military exercises and training courses on a regular basis," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a joint press statement after bilateral talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Welcoming Italy's active participation in the Indo-Pacific, Mr. Modi said Italy had decided to join the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI). "This will enable us to identify concrete themes for enhancing our cooperation in the Indo-Pacific," he stated

The two countries also concluded a Declaration of Intent (DOI) on migration and mobility.

Raisina Dialogue

Delivering the inaugural address of the 8th Raisina Dialogue organised by Observer Research Foundation jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, Ms. Meloni said global interconnection has enabled our economies to grow and flourish but it comes at a cost especially in times of turbulence in international community.

On the war in Ukraine, she said it is a violation of the fundamental principle of global order that enables the international community to thrive.

"Russian attack is not simply an act of war or a localised act. It's an act against territorial integrity of a sovereign nation in violation of the fundamental principle of the global order that enables the international community to thrive," Ms. Meloni said.

India, China discuss LAC situation as Jaishankar meets counterpart Qin

Ananth Krishnan
Dinakar Peri
BEIJING / NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday he had discussed the "abnormal" current state of relations with China and the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as he held bilateral talks with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang.

The meeting – a first between the two Ministers, with Mr. Qin having been appointed in December 2022 – was focused on addressing "challenges in the bilateral relationship" and specifically the peace and tranquillity on the border, Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that both also discussed the G-20 agenda.

"The thrust of our talks was on challenges in the bilateral relationship and the peace and tranquillity at the LAC," he said. "Our talks were about the current state of our relationship which many of you heard me describe as abnormal, those were among adjectives that I used in the meeting. There are real problems that need to be discussed openly and candidly and that is what we did today."

Easing ties: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Last week's meet

The two sides last week held their first in-person high-level border talks in more than three years, with Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shilpak Ambule travelling to Beijing for the 26th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. The two sides discussed proposals for disengaging in two remaining friction areas to create conditions to "restore normalcy" in relations, and agreed to hold the next round of talks between senior military commanders at an early date.

Mr. Qin, in his remarks to the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting, called for the grouping "to practise true multilateralism, uphold the UN-centred international system and the international order based on international law, and observe the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter."

"No one should engage in power politics or even bloc confrontation," he said, adding that "global development and prosperity cannot be achieved without a peaceful and stable international environment." "With this in mind, China has put forward the Global Security Initiative, and issued the position paper on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. China will always stand on the side of peace, actively promote peace talks, and play a constructive role."

'New paradigm'

In bilateral talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the meeting, both sides hailed the closeness of their strategic partnership, which the two countries have recently described as being the best period in their history. Mr. Qin told Mr. Lavrov relations had "set a new paradigm for a new type of major power relations," the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said in a statement, and on Ukraine, criticised those who were "pouring oil on the fire".

CJI, advocate engage in a heated exchange

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday was witness to a heated courtroom exchange between Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Supreme Court Bar Association president senior advocate Vikas Singh over allotment of land for lawyers' chambers.

Chief Justice Chandrachud asked Mr. Singh not to raise his voice at the Bench and threaten the Chief Justice, and finally told him to leave the courtroom. Mr. Singh had said if the case was not listed, he would "have to escalate and take it to Your Lordships' residence".

Opposition parties welcome SC verdict on appointment of ECs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the Supreme Court judgment on the appointment of Election Commissioners, the Congress on Thursday demanded that the present panel be reconstituted as per the procedure laid down by the top court.

Congress spokesperson and senior Supreme Court lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the court's judgment and observations were a powerful indictment of the functioning of the Election Commission over the past eight years. "The judgment reaffirms and reiterates the importance of divesting the control of the executive over a body that is crucial to the conduct of free and fair elections," Mr. Singhvi said.

Since the ruling party enjoys absolute power to nominate officers for this post, it can nominate individuals who are likely to be more inclined to give them a wide berth when it comes to electoral violations, he added.

The government, Mr. Singhvi said, opposed tooth and nail the idea of an independent Election Commission by filing counter affidavits and arguing through senior law officers that the mechanism of appointment by the government was robust.

'Seminal verdict'

Calling it a "seminal verdict", the CPI(M) Polit Bureau, in a statement, said it was a "step forward in the direction of strengthening the independent authority and functioning of the Election Commission".

Senior RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said the judgment fulfilled a long-pending demand of the Opposition parties which have been flagging the lack of transparency in the appointment of Election Commissioners.

Former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla congratulated the court. He said this was a reform that the commission had sought for many years. " It will automatically protect the Election Commissioners and the CEC from removal midway through their term and is therefore vital in protecting the Election Commission's independence," he said.

EC having tenure below 6 years breach of law: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that the appointment of an Election Commissioner for a tenure ofl ess than six years is in "clear breach" of law. The court's observation came while discussing the designation of Arun Goel as an Election Commissioner. Mr. Goel has a term of a little over five years.

"The philosophy behind giving a reasonably long stint to the appointee to the post of Election Commissioner or the Chief Election Commissioner is that it would enable the officer to have enough time to... be able to assert his independence...," the court observed.

APPEAL

Baby Shreyashree Majhi, Son of Lab Majhi, 2 years admitted in Manipal Hospitals, is suffering from Congenital Heart disease, Large PM Malaligned VSD Shunting BD, PV Dysplastic, no PS Moderate PR, Confluent Branch PAs, severe PAH. She requires to undergo Fenestrated VSD Closure+Pulmonary Valve Inspection +/- RVOT Reconstruction. The estimated cost of the surgery is **Rs. 4,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the baby. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Shreyashree Majhi. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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MEGHALAYA

Conrad unchallenged in South Tura, despite uncertainty in State

Supporters of the National People's Party (NPP) celebrate Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's victory in the State Assembly elections in the South Tura constituency. ANI

TRIPURA

CM face Manik Saha coasts to victory in Town Bardowali

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha flashes the victory sign after winning the Town Bardowali seat in West Tripura district. He defeated Asish Kumar Saha of the Congress by 1,257 votes. PTI

JHARKHAND

Despite a spirited campaign, Congress loses to AJSU in Ramgarh

Supporters of the All Jharkhand Students Union celebrate the party candidate's victory in the Ramgarh Assembly byelection in Jharkhand over the Congress candidate. PTI

MAHARASHTRA

Holi comes early as Cong. seizes BJP's stronghold of Kasba Peth

Congress candidate Ravindra Dhangekar's supporters celebrate his victory in the Kasba Peth Assembly byelection in Pune. This is the first time in 28 years that a Congress candidate has won the seat. PTI

Congress makes gains in Assembly bypolls, wins a seat each in 3 States

In alliance with the CPI(M), party defeats ruling Trinamool Congress in Sagardighi of West Bengal; it grabs the Kasba Peth in Maharashtra in a prestigious battle in an RSS-BJP bastion; loss in Ramgarh in Jharkhand is, however, a serious drubbing

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Congress had reason to cheer as results of byelections to six Assembly seats in five States were announced on Thursday, despite its poor showing in the Assembly elections in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya. Of the six seats, the party won three – most notable are the victories in Sagardighi in West Bengal and Kasba Peth in Maharashtra.

In Sagardighi, Bayron Biswas, backed by the CPI (M), defeated Debasish Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress by nearly 23,000 votes. The last time the Congress won the seat was 51 years ago in the 1972 Assembly election. From 1977 to 2006, the CPI(M) won the seat, and from 2011, the Trinamool held the seat.

Savouring success: Congress candidate Ravindra Dhangekar celebrates his win in Kasba Peth, Pune on Thursday. PTI

The byelection was held as incumbent Subrata Saha died last December. Mr. Biswas's victory finds the Congress a berth in the West Bengal Assembly. The party, along with its ally CPI(M), scored a blank in the 2021 Assembly election, a first for them since Independence.

In Kasba Peth, Congress candidate Ravindra Dhangekar won the seat for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in a BJP stronghold. Mr. Dhangekar defeated BJP candidate Hemant Rasane by 10,915 votes. This is the first time in 28 years that a Congress candidate has won the seat. For six consecutive elections from 1995 to 2019, the BJP won the seat. The byelection was necessitated as incumbent Mukta Tilak died last December. This was the first direct contest between the BJP-Shiv Sena Shinde faction and the MVA after the change in government in Maharashtra last June.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh hailed the party's victories. "The Congress won Kasba Peth after nearly 30 years. This is a bastion of RSS-BJP and it a very positive sign for us. We won Tamil Nadu bypolls by a brilliant margin," Mr. Ramesh said.

At Chinchawad in Maharashtra, Ashwini Laxman Jagtap of the BJP wrested the seat from Nana Kate of the NCP. Ms. Jagtap won her maiden election by over 36,000 votes.

The Congress managed to retain the Erode (East) seat in Tamil Nadu where the death of E. Thirumahan Everaa led to the byelections. His father, E.V.K.S. Elangovan, defeated K.S. Thennarasu of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) by 66,233 votes. Mr. Elangovan gave full credit to Chief Minister and DMK leader M.K. Stalin for his win.

In Ramgarh in Jharkhand, the Congress was unable to hold on to its seat. The byelections were held after incumbent Mamata Devi was disqualified on her conviction in a criminal case. All Jharkhand Students Union Party candidate Sunita Choudhary won the seat, defeating Ms. Devi's husband, Bajrang Mahto, by nearly 22,000 votes. The defeat is particularly jarring because Mr. Mahto was backed by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

No voting was required in Lumla of Arunachal Pradesh as Tsering Lhamu of the BJP was elected unopposed.

Not just a numbers game for the BJP in the northeast

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

In the ideological sense, the impact of the BJP's performance in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland is considered by the party as far more than a numbers game, as it aids the perception of the party not limited to the Hindi heartland and capable of registering victories in minority-dominated states and on a development plank.

Senior BJP leaders have attributed the party's performance in the first round of Assembly polls of the year to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach to northeastern States and focus on them.

"Winning the first time around can be considered a fluke, or even that these States often vote alongside whoever occupies the Central government, but these are repeat victories and are clearly a positive affirmation of the northeast policy of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP's concentration on these State," a senior BJP office-bearer said.

Infra projects

Mr. Modi has travelled to the northeastern States more than 51 times in the past eight years. He asked his Council of Ministers to travel often, with officials in tow, for development review, and 74 Ministers have clocked over 400 visits over the years. "Infrastructure projects like rail connectivity, alongside road projects worth over ₹1.06 lakh crore have been commissioned, all of this stacks up," said a source.

It is, however, also an ideological project of the BJP to make inroads into the northeastern States, especially since a few of them such as Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram have a dominant Christian and tribal population.

In the case of Tripura, the ideological imperative had been to win in a State where it directly faces off against the Left Front. The importance given to these States is clear from the fact that Union Home Minister Amit Shah alone undertook 16 rallies and two roadshows in these three States, and the special position of Tripura in these plans was underscored by the fact that 11 of these rallies and one roadshow was in that State.

The party has been on the project since 2014. The formation of the North Eastern Democratic Alliance (NEDA) under Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been a game changer.

"Meghalaya and Nagaland are States with a majority Christian population and while it has been an uphill task for us, we are very happy with the results. Party workers have said that they have faced resistance among people who have seen BJP's or Sangh Parivar's objections to beef eating, etc, which is why our Meghalaya president Ernest Mawrie came out with a statement on beef," he said.

Narendra Modi is garlanded by Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda during the celebrations in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

BJP win in northeast reflects the support from all sections: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the results of the Assembly elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland showed that the northeastern States were no longer "*Dil se door na Dilli se door*" (neither far from our hearts nor from Delhi). Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters in New Delhi, Mr. Modi also launched a sharp attack on his detractors, stating that however much they wished "*mar ja* Modi" (that Modi should die) the people of the country wished the opposite – "*mat ja* Modi" (do not go Modi).

The BJP has been elected back to power in Tripura and is part of the ruling coalition which won in Nagaland. Prime Minister Modi said that there were always attempts to straitjacket the BJP as an upper caste, urban party that minorities shied away from but successive election results had proven that the party got support from all sections of society.

"Meghalaya and Nagaland are Christian-dominated and our brothers and sisters there have taken us to their hearts, as the people of Goa have done," he said. In a reference to the Congress-Left alliance in Tripura, Mr. Modi said people were also keenly observing that some parties were combatants in one State and allies in another.

"People of Kerala are watching this shadow boxing too and how both these parties are looting the State," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the secret of the BJP's success was because of its "*triveni*" or three-skeined mantra of success: the work of its governments, the work culture it fostered and the hard work of the BJP workers.

Will fight alone in 2024 , says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that she would not ally with the Congress or the Left parties in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and her party would fight the polls alone.

"There will be an alliance of Trinamool Congress and the people. We will fight alone with the support of people. Those who want to defeat the BJP will vote for us, that I believe.. and those who will vote for Congress and CPI (M) will vote for BJP. This has been proved true today," Ms. Banerjee said.

On Thursday, Congress candidate Bayron Biswas won the bypoll in the Sagardighi Assembly constituency, defeating Trinamool Congress nominee Debasish Banerjee.

Ms. Banerjee stated, "BJP, Congress and CPI(M) have a 'give-and-take relationship'. In the coming days, we will end their political drama."

Fruitful tie-up for Cong., not for CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The sharp dip in the vote share of the CPI(M) in the Tripura Assembly election has raised questions on its strategy to align with the Congress, which, on the other hand, has benefited from the alliance.

The vote share of the CPI (M) fell to 24.6% from 42% in 2018, the sharpest drop among all the parties in the fray. The party's seat share also reduced to 11 from the 16 in 2018.

The Congress's vote share, however, rose 6.7% from the 1.8% in 2018. The party also saw its tally jump to three seats from the nil in 2018.

Speaking to *The Hindu* before the election, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the alliance was finalised "not so much as a conscious decision by both the parties to pool their votes", instead it was worked out because of the "pressure from below". It was the people's demand, he said, that necessitated the alliance.

The results once again bring the CPI(M)'s contention to the vote that while they are able to transfer their votes to the ally, a similar counter transfer often does not fructify. The results will strengthen the arguments against any alliance or electoral understanding with the Congress, which the Kerala unit of the party has been staunchly opposed to.

Vote share of CPI(M) fell to 24.6% from 42% in 2018, the sharpest drop among all parties in the fray

While, accepting the results, the Polit Bureau, in a statement, said that the BJP had managed only a small majority despite "spending unprecedented amounts of money and other malpractices". "The CPI(M) greets all those who have voted for the Left Front and Opposition candidates by rejecting the BJP. The Polit Bureau congratulates the thousands of cadres and workers of the CPI(M) and Left Front who, after braving the repression unleashed on them in the past five years, came forward courageously to conduct the election campaign and to reach out to the people, whom they had been deprived of meeting for a long time," it said.

Nagaland gets its first women MLAs

Hekani Jakhalu and Salhoutuonuo Kruse of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party get berths in the 60-member State Assembly with wins from Dimapur-III and Western Angami

Rahul Karmarkar
GUWAHATI

Hekani Jakhalu of the NDPP made history by becoming the first woman to be elected to the 60-member Nagaland Assembly. Ms. Jakhalu was announced the winner from the Dimapur-III constituency in the 2023 Nagaland Assembly election.

Representing the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), she defeated sitting MLA Azheto Zhimomi of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) by 1,536 votes to win the Dimapur-III constituency. Mr. Zhimomi has won the seat as a candidate of the Naga People's Party in 2018.

Honour roll: Hekani Jakhalu, left, and Salhoutuonuo Kruse.

She was one of four women among 183 candidates in this election.

The NDPP's second woman candidate, Salhoutuonuo Kruse, followed Ms Jakhalu as the MLA-elect hours later. She defeated Keneizhakho Nakhro, an Independent candidate, by only seven votes to bag the Western Angami seat.

"It's a victory for my team and my constituency. I am grateful to the people for putting their faith in me," Ms. Jakhalu said from Dimapur, the commercial hub of Nagaland.

A U.S.-educated lawyer and social activist, Ms. Jakhalu attributed her victory to 17 years of social service through YouthNet, an organisation she had founded for transforming the State through the empowerment of the youth and women.

The two women candidates who could not make it were the BJP's Kahuli Sema, a retired engineer, and Rosy Thomson of the Congress. The former was defeated in the Atoizu constituency and the latter in Tening.

Tripura Deputy CM Jishnu Deb Varma's loss is setback to BJP

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

While the BJP registered a victory in Tripura Assembly election to win a second consecutive term, the defeat of Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Deb Varma, who is part of the party's old guard, has come as a setback. All Ministers of Chief Minister Manik Saha's Cabinet won except Mr. Deb Varma.

He was defeated by a mere 858 votes in the Charilam constituency. Subodh Debbarma of the TIPRA Motha (Tipraha Indigenous Peoples Regional Party), led by the State's royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, defeated the veteran in a multi-cornered contest.

Interestingly, Mr. Deb Varma is also a senior member of the royal family. He is the TIPRA chief's uncle.

The TIPRA fought in 42 Assembly constituencies, including all 20 tribal reserved seats. The party, despite nominating non-tribals, did not bag a single victory in general seats. It did not put up a candidate against CPI(M) State Secretary Jitendra Choudhury who won from the Sabroom constituency in south Tripura.

INBRIEF

Land mafia damage ancient fortified city of Sisupalgarh

Land sharks armed with heavy earth-moving equipment have damaged a portion of the wall of the fortified ancient city of Sisupalgarh, an archaeological heritage that has survived over 2,600 years, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. What has made matters worse is that the destruction occurred just as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Odisha's Revenue Administration were working in tandem to acquire the land and safeguard the heritage. A case has been registered at the local police station. The ASI has sought the State government's immediate intervention, before the ancient centre succumbs to greedy urbanisation.

Australia and India sign agreement on education

India and Australia on Thursday signed an agreement for mutual recognition of qualifications that will ease mobility of students and professionals between the two countries. The agreement, called the 'Framework Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications', was signed following a bilateral meeting in New Delhi between Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Australian Education Minister Jason Clare. Mr. Clare said the Australian universities were enthusiastic to work with their Indian counterparts through the mechanism of joint or dual degrees, or twinning programmes that the UGC allowed last year.

One found guilty, three acquitted in Hathras case

An SC/ST court in Hathras on Thursday acquitted three out of four accused persons, and convicted one person for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, in the case involving the rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl. It was alleged that four youth belonging to a dominant caste group from the same Boolgarhi village gang-raped the girl before trying to kill her. The convicted Sandeep Sisodia was sentenced to life imprisonment by the court after finding him guilty and fined ₹50,000. The other accused – Ramu, Lav Kush and Ravi – were acquitted by the special court due to lack of evidence.

Australian military in India on exchange programme

As many as 15 officers from the Australian Defence Forces are visiting India from March 1 under the inaugural General Rawat India-Australia Young Defence Officers' Exchange Programme that was announced in 2022. "During the exchange programme, the Australian officers will be hosted by 15 officers from the Indian armed forces of similar rank and skill set, and will visit various Indian defence establishments across four cities," the Australian High Commission said on Thursday. The tri-service contingent includes four women officers, it stated. The programme aims to expose young officers from Australia and India to each other's training philosophies and capabilities.

SC forms expert panel to probe any regulatory failure on Adani issue

The court has asked the committee to inquire into the causal factors of any such failures; Bench directs SEBI to expand its existing investigation into the Hindenburg report's allegations against Adani group; panel to submit report in two months

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday formed an expert committee headed by Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre (retd), a former judge of the court, to investigate if any regulatory failure had led to investors losing crores of rupees due to the recent volatility in the stock market following the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group.

The committee has also been asked to probe the causal factors of any such failure.

The Hindenburg Research published a report on January 24, accusing the Adani Group of manipulating share prices and account fraud.

The committee includes former Chairman of the State Bank of India O.P. Bhatt, retired Bombay High Court judge Justice J.P. Devadhar, former chief

> It is appropriate to constitute an expert committee for assessment of the extant regulatory framework and for making recommendations to strengthen it
> **SUPREME COURT**

of the New Development Bank of BRIC countries K.V. Kamath, co-founder of Infosys Nandan Nilekani and securities expert and lawyer Somasekhar Sundaresan. The expert committee was requested to submit its report to the Supreme Court in a sealed cover expeditiously within two months.

"In order to protect Indian investors from the volatility of the kind witnessed in the recent past, we are of the view that it is appropriate to constitute an expert committee for assessment of the extant regulatory framework and for making recommendations to strengthen it," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed in its order.

The remit of the committee is fourfold and all-encompassing. It has been mandated to provide an overall assessment of the situation, including the relevant causal factors which led to the volatility in the securities market in the recent past; to suggest measures to strengthen Indian investor awareness; to investigate whether there has been a regulatory failure in dealing with the alleged contravention of laws protecting the securities market in relation to the Adani Group of companies; and suggest measures to strengthen the statutory and regulatory framework and secure compliance with the existing framework for the protection of investors. The Securities and Exchange Board of India, agencies connected with financial regulations, fiscal agencies, and law enforcement agencies should cooperate with the committee, the court said. The panel's expenses will be borne by the Centre.

The SEBI's ongoing probe, the court noted, included alleged violations of various laws such as SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003; SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015; and SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2019, Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODI) norms, short selling norms, if any. However, the court highlighted certain blanks in the SEBI's probe, details of which it said was too early to out. For example, the court said that SEBI has not "expressly referred" to any investigation into the alleged violation of the Securities Contract (Regulation) Rules of 1957 against the Adani Group.

The court directed SEBI to cover three more aspects in its probe: whether there has been a violation of Rule 19A of the 1957 Rules; whether there has been a failure to disclose transactions with related parties and other relevant information which concerns related parties in contravention with the law; and whether there was any manipulation of stock prices in contravention of existing laws.

The Bench ordered SEBI to keep the committee apprised of its investigation.

Only JPC can bring out the truth in Adani case: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the mandate of the committee set up by the Supreme Court on the Adani-Hindenburg issue was limited to the violation of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) laws and only a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) can make the government answerable.

The party said that it would continue its demand for a JPC probe when Parliament reconvenes on March 13. While the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) concurred with the need for a JPC probe, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) termed the Supreme Court order "landmark".

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government were to be held accountable, any committee other than the JPC would be nothing but an exercise in "legitimisation and exoneration".

IPS officer Rashmi Shukla appointed D-G of SSB

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla has been appointed Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), a government order said on Thursday.

Ms. Shukla, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, was heading the State Intelligence Department in the Maharashtra police when the phones of Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and Nationalist Congress Party leader Eknath Khadse were tapped in 2019. Two FIRs were registered against Ms. Shukla in Pune and Mumbai for tapping the phones of Congress leader Nana Patole, Mr. Khadse and Mr. Raut.

Our donors include 30 organisations, including Indian government: CPR

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Days after the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) was suspended, the think tank's officials said its donors include over 30 organisations in India and abroad, among them the Government of India.

A CPR functionary said that its partnership with Namati, an international legal empowerment group, was not for filing litigation and legal complaints. Other than the FCRA suspension, the Income Tax (I-T) Department in December 2022 sent a notice to the CPR asking why its tax exemption status should not be cancelled. The I-T notice had sought CPR's explanation on donations received from Namati, which it alleged were used to litigate and file cases.

Earlier, a survey was conducted by the I-T Department at the CPR's office on September 7, 2022.

FCRA registration is mandatory to receive foreign donations.

One of the donors of Namati, which has presence in the U.S, Kenya and Myanmar, is the Open Society Foundations (OSF), promoted by billionaire philanthropist George Soros, who has been critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The OSF was placed under a watchlist by the Union Home Ministry in 2016, restricting it from sending donations to NGOs. The OSF moved the Delhi High Court in 2020, challenging the decision. The case is pending.

"There have been allegations that CPR is involved in undertaking litigation and activism through one of its environmental projects. This is a baseless claim. CPR's partnership with Namati is not to file litigation and legal complaints. It is to conduct research into the functioning of administrative processes set up for environmental monitoring. The project involves educational activities to build public understanding of environmental procedures and institutions. These research and educational activities are undertaken by trained community workers," an official of the CPR said.

With the suspension of its FCRA registration, the public policy advocacy group will not be able to receive foreign donations.

"The centre has over 30 funders from India, including the Government of India, and abroad. The funders are listed on our website and are in our annual reports. The CPR is a member of the Indian Council of Social Science Research and is recognised by the Department of Science and Technology," the official said.

Punjab CM meets Amit Shah; discusses security, Ajnala case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after followers of a Sikh radical leader stormed a police station in Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday.

Mr. Mann said that Punjab and the Centre would work together on the issue of law and order.

Mr. Mann discussed the use of drones to smuggle narcotics from Pakistan. He urged the Home Minister to generously allot funds for checking the supply of drugs and weapons from across the border, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said.

The Chief Minister also had a detailed discussion with Mr. Shah on the gangsters nabbed by Punjab. He told the Union Home Minister that the State government was adopting a zero tolerance policy against gangsters.

Mr. Mann said the State government was duty-bound to maintain law and order at every cost.

On February 23, a mob, led by Amritpal Singh, a pro-Khalistan (sovereign State for Sikhs) propagator and self-styled Sikh preacher, stormed a police station in Punjab's Ajnala demanding that one of their own be released from police custody. The Punjab government caved in to the demand.

Punjab government officials said that coordination between the Central and State agencies to further strengthen border security was also discussed.

Discussion was held on the early deployment of Punjab cadre police officers in Chandigarh, an official said.

The Chief Minister also urged Mr. Shah to provide liberal funds to ensure modernisation of the State Police force for effectively combating the new challenges.

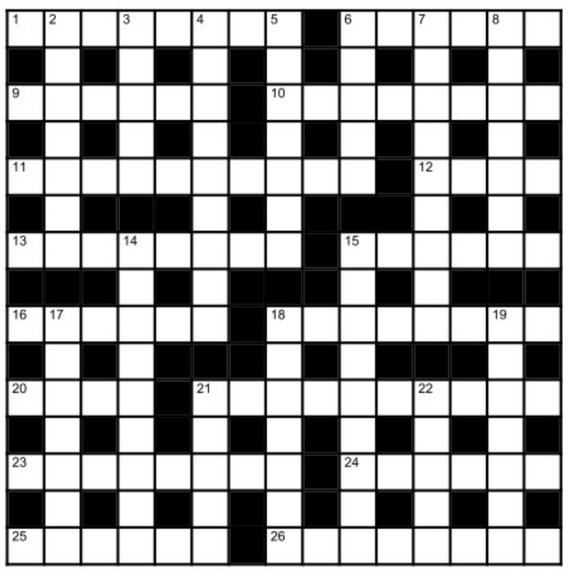
He said the need of the hour was to provide ultra modern gadgets and weapons to the State force for checking cross border infiltration and drone attack from across the border.

TH CROSSWORD + 13803

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Mostly lawsuit firm accepts currency basically or plastic money (4,4)
6 People stock gold in principle (6)
9 Go off, break off, heads off, drop off (6)
10 Prisoner going around public house before noon for spicy flavour (8)
11 Au pair gets bread and breakfast mainly in my building (4-6)
12 Egyptian goddess, maybe Osiris or not? (4)
13 More erotic pairs heartily board ship (8)
15 Heroin sounds croaky (6)
16 Kind nurse (6)
18 Arthurian knight's local net collapsed (8)
20 Narrative piece surprisingly lacks content (4)
21 Bad guys are on the rise unexpectedly (10)
23 Repeated musical phrase lost in a toccata partly (8)
24 Blindworm maybe suffering mostly (6)
25 Indian killed in shooting close to Chinese border (6)
26 Need a key to reveal the body part with no outside help? (5,3)

Down

2 Resolute parents abducted by worker (7)
3 Isolated childline unit (5)
4 Almost huge fire broke out engulfing institute's electronic equipment (9)
5 Match winning action when cryptologist took one for zero (7)
6 Male voice heard in decade (5)
7 Kill time ignoring Troy rule (9)
8 New recruits lost money in the room and keys reportedly (7)
14 Perhaps an idiot could remove contents for the thing (9)
15 Spooner's group saw abnormal curvature (9)
17 He brings to light one-time model (7)
18 Gate-crashed in frustration (3-4)
19 Overweight playboy conceals adulterous ties! (7)
21 Promotion time "Maybe better late than never" (5)
22 Firm is free to capture soldier (5)

SUDOKU

						7		1
	5	8	2		7	3		
1		2			9			
5		6			4	9		2
7		3	6			5		8
			9			2		4
		5	4		1	6	7	
4		7						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5726 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

P	I	P	E	C	L	A	Y		C	U	P	O	L	A
R		L		O		L			S		P		R	
E	T	E	R	N	A	L		I	N	E	R	T	I	A
S		A		V		I		T		R		I		B
S	E	I	Z	E		E	X	C	U	S	E	M	E	
U		N		R		D		H				U		
R	I	G	H	T	S		R	E	F	O	R	M	E	R
E				E		E		D		P				A
S	Q	U	A	R	I	N	G		H	E	R	O	I	C
		T				J		P		N		D		K
	W	E	L	L	T	O	D	O		I	N	D	I	E
E		N		O		Y		N		N		B		T
T	O	S	S	U	P	S		C	O	G	N	A	T	E
A		I		P				H		U		L		E
L	U	L	L	E	D		C	O	M	P	I	L	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	3	8	4	1	2	7	6
1	2	6	5	7	3	8	4	9
4	8	7	2	9	6	3	5	1
8	3	4	6	1	9	7	2	5
5	6	9	7	2	8	1	3	4
7	1	2	3	5	4	9	6	8
6	7	5	9	8	2	4	1	3
3	9	1	4	6	7	5	8	2
2	4	8	1	3	5	6	9	7

FAITH

Meenakshi's grandeur

Pathanjali Yoga Sastra speaks of the Aagnya Chakram and Sahasrara Chakram. In between the two there are twelve points called the Dwadasa Sthanam, and their pinnacle is known as Dwadhasantham. Madurai, the abode of Goddess Meenakshi, is called Dwadhasantham. Mukhakavi composed about 500 slokas on the Goddess. In all Saivite temples, rituals are first conducted for Eswara and then for the Goddess. But in Madurai, where God performed 64 miraculous deeds, offerings are first made to the Ambal and then to Sri Sundareswarar.

The apostle Thirugnana Sambhandar was summoned by queen Mangayarkarasi to cure the Pandya king of disease. The apostle applied vibhuthi from the temple, singing hymns, and the king was cured. King Bhojaraja asked the poet Kalidasa whether there could be a flower in another flower. The poet replied that in the divine lotus face of the Goddess, her two eyes were like flowers. The poet composed the Shyamaladhandakam in praise of the Goddess. When we prostrate at Her feet, the divine rays emanating from Her ten fingers pass through the pores of our head and kindle knowledge in us.

Sri Adi Sankarar says in the Soundharya Lahari's 56th sloka that She removes all hurdles in our life. It's said that Saraswathi played her instrument before Meenakshi in Her court. Infatuated, Saraswathi asked how her rendering had been. Goddess Meenakshi's reply was sweeter and Saraswathi felt humiliated. Sri Thiruneelakandar sang the Anandha Sagara Sthavam praising the Goddess in about 100 slokas, Brahmasri Vadakudi Sundararama Dhishithar said in a discourse.

TOKYO

Japan 'Happy Science' cult leader Ryuho Okawa, aged 66, dies

AFP

Ryuho Okawa, the leader of the Japanese "Happy Science" cult who claimed to be able to communicate with the spirits, died on Thursday aged 66, local media reported. The cause of the death was not immediately known. The group believes in spiritual reincarnation and the construction of a global utopia. AFP

WASHINGTON

Pakistan is home to at least a dozen terrorist outfits: Haley

REUTERS

Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has said that Pakistan is home to at least a dozen terrorist organisations and it should not receive any aid from the U.S., ramping up her attack on America's adversaries. The former U.S. Ambassador to the UN launched her 2024 presidential bid last month. PTI

CAPE CANAVERAL

SpaceX launches U.S., Russia, UAE astronauts to space station

AFP

SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA on Thursday, including the first person from the Arab world going up for an extended months-long stay. The Falcon rocket bolted from Kennedy Space Center shortly after midnight, illuminating the night sky as it headed up the East Coast. AP

BERLIN

23% in Germany are immigrants, children of immigrants, as of 2021

AFP

As of 2021, some 18.9 million people, or 23% of Germany's population, either immigrated to the country since 1950 or are the children of immigrants, Germany's Federal Statistics Office said on Thursday. It's the first time the statistics office has analysed the country's population based on migration figures. AP

Blinken, Lavrov make 'contact' on the sidelines of G-20 Foreign Ministers' meet

This was the first meeting between the top U.S. and Russian diplomats since the Ukraine war began last year; U.S. State Secretary says he raised the war and Russia's withdrawal from New START with Lavrov; Russia says there was no 'full fledged meeting' and that the U.S. asked for the contact

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Aside from their differences over the Ukraine war, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also differed over the nature of a "brief" encounter the two leaders had in Delhi on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) on Thursday.

Mr. Blinken said he had raised substantial points on the war and other issues with Mr. Lavrov during their meeting at the Rastrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre where the FMM was organised and chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. However, when asked, Mr. Lavrov dismissed any meeting as a "corridor conversation" and the Russian Foreign Ministry said it was simply a "contact" between the two leaders that had been requested by Mr. Blinken.

This was the first meeting between the top U.S. and Russian diplomats since Russia started its "special military operation" in Ukraine on February 24 last year.

Antony Blinken speaking during a press conference on the sidelines of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi. REUTERS

Return to talks

"I spoke briefly with Lavrov today. I urged him to return to negotiate the START treaty. I raised the wrongful detention of American prisoner Paul Whelan in Russia. And I asked him to end the war in Ukraine," Mr. Blinken told journalists at a press conference in New Delhi. Paul Whelan is a former U.S. Marine who was convicted in June 2020 on espionage charges in Moscow. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson had a different account. "U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asked for contact with Foreign Minister Lavrov. During the second session of G-20 meet, they had contact. There were no talks or full fledged meeting," Russian spokesperson Maria Zakharova said here.

In back-to-back conferences, the U.S. and Russian foreign Ministers trained sharp comments at each other, blaming Moscow and Washington, respectively, for the impasse in the Ukraine war one year after it began.

When asked about the "democratic backslide" in India, Mr. Blinken said India and U.S. are two democracies and they have to hold themselves accountable to the core values of democracy. "We regularly engage with our Indian counterparts on the issue, as I did with Jaishankar today," the U.S. Secretary of state said. Talking about the restrictions that have been placed on U.S. NGOs in India, he said, "When it comes to restrictions on NGOs, we raise with our Indian counterparts the necessity of allowing all NGOs to do their work without restrictions, and this comes up in our conversations regularly."

Issuing a stern warning to China, Mr. Blinken said that if China were to assist Russia militarily or subvert sanctions imposed on Russia, it would be a serious problem and 'there would be consequences'. Replying to a question from *The Hindu* on the future of G-20, he said that as long as there's a consensus that includes all the members of the G-20 minus two, the process can still go ahead, even if there is no joint communique at the leaders' summit in September.

In the G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Bali last July, Russia faced criticism for its Ukraine campaign. Mr. Lavrov maintained a tough posture against the West accusing it of staying quiet during NATO's campaign against Yugoslavia, Libya, Afghanistan and the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Russia claims Ukraine carried out cross-border raid

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian officials accused Ukrainian saboteurs on Thursday of crossing into western Russia and attacking local villages, an accusation that Ukraine denied and alleged it would be used by Moscow to step up attacks.

The exact circumstances of the incident reported in the Bryansk region were unclear, including what the strategic purpose of such an attack would be.

If confirmed, it would be another indication following drone attacks earlier this week that Kyiv could be stepping up pressure against Moscow by exposing Russian defensive weaknesses, embarrassing the Kremlin and sowing unease among Russian civilians. Ukraine described the Russian reports as "a classic deliberate provocation."

Meanwhile, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Thursday that Germany and its allies were in talks with Kyiv over future security guarantees in preparation of a sustainable peace for Ukraine.

Security guarantees

"We are speaking with Kyiv and other partners over future security guarantees for Ukraine," Mr. Scholz said in a speech to the German Parliament.

"Such security guarantees however come with the presumption that Ukraine successfully defends itself in this war," said Mr. Scholz, who will travel to the United States for talks with President Joe Biden on Friday.

Germany and some other allies increasingly had doubts about Ukraine's ability to retake all its territory from Russia, *The Wall Street Journal* reported at the end of February.

Netanyahu slams protesters after salon siege of his wife

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies on Thursday denounced protesters as "anarchists" after they massed outside a Tel Aviv salon where his wife was getting her hair done – a chaotic end to a day of demonstrations against the government's plan to overhaul the judiciary.

Sara Netanyahu has long been a polarising figure in Israel, and the incident late on Wednesday in Tel Aviv reflected Israel's emotionally charged divide over the overhaul,

Sara Netanyahu

seen by opponents as an existential threat to the country. Demonstrators outside the salon chanted, "shame, shame" – but did not try to force their way inside. Hundreds of police were sent to the scene.

U.S. selling Taiwan F-16 munitions for $619 million

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States has approved the sale to Taiwan of $619 million in munitions for F-16 fighter jets, the Pentagon announced on Wednesday, in a move China said "seriously damages" relations between Washington and Beijing.

The sale will boost Taiwan's "capability to provide for the defence of its airspace, regional security, and interoperability with the United States," the Pentagon said in a statement.

The package will include anti-radar missiles, advanced air-to-air missiles, launchers and dummy missiles to be used for training, it said.

The U.S. State Department said separately that Wednesday's sale was consistent with Washington's One China Policy, in which the U.S. recognises Beijing, and acknowledges the Chinese position that Taiwan is part of China.

The Pentagon said the deal would "not alter the basic military balance in the region."

Trump can be sued for January 6, 2021 actions: Justice Dept.

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump can be sued by injured Capitol Police officers and Democratic lawmakers over the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the Justice Department said on Thursday in an ongoing federal court case testing the limits of executive power.

The department wrote that although a President enjoys broad legal latitude to communicate to the public on matters of concern, "no part of a President's official responsibilities includes the incitement of imminent private violence. By definition, such conduct plainly falls outside the President's constitutional and statutory duties."

The brief was filed by lawyers in the Justice Department's Civil Division and has no bearing on a separate criminal investigation by a department special counsel into whether Mr. Trump can be criminally charged over efforts to undo the results of the 2020 presidential election ahead of the Capitol riot.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 97A, 98, 99, 100,101/2022-23/SE/PHC/MVPA(Re), **JJM-CWSS to Idukki-** Supply and laying CWPM, GM, Pump house & Steel tank in Mariyapuram GP Construction of pump house, Supply and laying CWPM, GM, Steel tank and supply and laying the distribution system, Providing FHTCs in Kanjikuzhy GP, Supply and laying CWPM, Steel tank in Vannappuram GP, PROVIDING FHTCs TO ALL HOUSEHOLD IN ERATTAYAR AND KAMAKSHI (PART) GPs. Supply and laying of RWPM and CWPM, **EMD :** Rs. 2,00,000-5,00,000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 11025-16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 27-03-2023 04:00 pm, **Phone :** 04852835637, Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Muvattupuzha

KWA-JB-GL-6-1733-2022-23

International Institute for Population Sciences
[Deemed to be University]
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai–400088.
Contact Details:Tel:91-22-42372428
Email: distanceeducation@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2023-2025

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites applications for admission to the Master of Arts in Population Studies (Distance Learning Mode) for the academic session 2023-2025.

Last date to submit application offline: 20 March 2023
For more details, please visit: www.iipsindia.ac.in

DIRECTOR & SR. PROFESSOR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagara, Kanakanapalya, Bengaluru-560 011.
No:EE/CKP/E-PROC/19/2022-23 Date: 01.03.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover)

The Executive Engineer (Chikkapete Division), BBMP Bengaluru Invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of work detailed in the table below. **(STD-KW-4)**

Name of the Works	Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
Comprehensive development & Improvements to Roads, Drains, and Culverts in Siddapura, Hombegowdanagara, Jayanagara and Dharmarayaswamy Temple Wards.	1100.00	Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-procurement & Rs. 14.00 Lakhs through BG

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **09.03.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **07.03.2023** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (South), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 11. (3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **09.03.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Technical Bid Opening of Tenders is **10.03.2023** by **4:30** pm. (5) Date of Financial Bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical Bid Approved. (6) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
TENDER CALL NOTICE
NO. EM/WS-08/2023
File No.EM/WS/TECH-04/2022/329, Date : 01.03.2023

Name of the work : **" Grant of license for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of 03 nos. 100 Ton Capacity HMCs for a period of 05 years."** Last date and time of submission of bid : **Dt.10.04.2023 up to 1800 hrs.** Refer our website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .

Executive Engineer (M)
Workshop Division-I,
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/228/2022-23, Dt.02.03.2023

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन /
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र /
VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / Thiruvananthapuram - 695 022

संदर्भ सं./Ref. No. वीएसएससी/VSSC/भर्ती/RMT/9.0/315/2021 03.03.2023

शुद्धिपत्र / CORRIGENDUM

(फायरमैन–ए के पद के लिए भर्ती हेतु दिनांक 20.03.2021 के विज्ञापन सं. 315 का / To Advertisement No. 315 dated 20.03.2021 for recruitment to the post of Fireman-A)

फायरमैन–ए [पद सं. 1474] के लिए दिनांक **20.03.2021 कविज्ञापन सं. 315** के सामान्य शर्तों / अनुदेशों के खंड 10 में उल्लिखित चयन प्रक्रिया के अनुक्रम को संशोधित किया गया है। तथापि, दिनांक 20.03.2021 के मूल विज्ञापन में निर्धारित योग्यता मानदंड में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं है। ब्यौरे वीएसएससी वेबसाइट **https://www.vssc.gov.in** में देखे / जाने जा सकते हैं।

Sequence of Selection process mentioned in Clause 10 of General Conditions / Instructions in the **Advertisement No.315** dated **20.03.2021** for **Fireman-A [Post No. 1474]** has been revised. However, there is no change in the qualifying criteria prescribed in the original advertisement dated 20.03.2021. Details may be seen / known from VSSC website, viz., **https://www.vssc.gov.in**.

इसलिए आवेदकों से अपेक्षित है कि वे वीएसएससी वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य परीक्षा (पीएमई) प्रमाणपत्र दिनांक **20.03.2023** तक प्रस्तुत करें। कृपया नोट करें कि वैध प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य परीक्षा (पीएमई) प्रमाणपत्र अनुबंधित समय के अंदर प्रस्तुत करनेवाले उम्मीदवारों पर ही आगे की चयन प्रक्रिया हेतु विचार किया जाएगा। फायरमैन–ए के पद पर चयन हेतु लिखित परीक्षा अनंतिम रूप से **अप्रैल / मई 2023** क महीने में निर्धारित है।

Applicants are therefore required to submit a Preliminary Medical Examination [PME] certificate in the prescribed format which is available in the VSSC website, latest by **20.03.2023**. Please note that only those candidates who submit the valid Preliminary Medical Examination [PME] certificate within the stipulated time will be considered for further selection process. The written test for selection to the post of Fireman-A is tentatively scheduled to be held in the month of **April / May 2023**.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-69/44/2022-23 Date:02.03.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of Retrofitting of Existing Water Supply Scheme for Belur Growth Centre at Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **13.03.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5028/Zen/2022-23

INBRIEF

ICICI Bank unveils digital solutions for market players

ICICI Bank has unveiled digital solutions for participants of the capital market. "The solutions enable various participants in the sector including stock brokers, portfolio management service providers, foreign portfolio investors, foreign direct investors, and alternative investment funds to seamlessly meet their banking requirements," the bank said.

Wabag says ranked among top 3 water firms globally

Chennai-based water technology firm Va Tech Wabag Ltd. (Wabag) said it had been ranked among the top three water companies globally by Global Water Intelligence (GWI), London, for ensuring safe and clean drinking water and sanitation to more than 88.8 million people across the globe. Wabag's innovative and environment-friendly solutions are compliant with the Environment, Social, Governance Sustainability Index, which is fast emerging as a priority for industries worldwide, the firm said.

Manufacturing firms record lower sales growth in Q3: RBI

Listed manufacturing companies recorded lower sales growth of 10.6% in the December quarter of the current fiscal compared with 20.9% in the previous quarter, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday. The moderation in the manufacturing companies was broad-based across the industries, except for cement. Over all, sales growth of listed private non-financial companies moderated to 12.7% in the third quarter of 2022-23 from 22.6% in the previous July-September period. PTI

GDP growth may beat 7% this FY: CEA

High frequency indicators and pace of recovery suggests greater likelihood of upward revision of GDP numbers, asserts Nageswaran; contends the rising interest rates simply reflects the fact that there is healthy underlying demand for credit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday expressed hope that GDP growth for the current fiscal will exceed the projected 7% in view of the expected revision of high frequency data.

On Tuesday, the National Statistical Office's second advance estimate maintained its January growth projection of 7%.

"Given the high frequency indicators and the pace at which they are recovering, I do believe that the current year's (GDP numbers)... are more likely to (be) revised upward than downward," he said.

Real GDP or GDP at constant prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at ₹159.71 lakh crore, as against the first revised estimate for 2021-22 of ₹149.26 lakh crore. The growth in real GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 7%, compared with 9.1% in 2021-22, the NSO had said.

Growth slowed to 4.4% in the October-December quarter, mainly due to a contraction in the manufacturing sector, as per the data released by the NSO.

On Tuesday, the NSO revised GDP growth data for the last three fiscal years and also released the second advance estimate of GDP for 2022-23. While the growth rate for 2021-22 has been revised up by 40 basis points to 9.1% from 8.7%, the change in GDP for 2020-21 too has been revised upwards to (-)5.8% from (-)6.6 %.

Mr. Nageswaran said rising interest rates need not necessarily be a cause of lower growth but simply reflected the fact that there was healthy underlying demand for credit.

'Pent-up demand'

Real interest rate was not very high at the moment, he said, adding there was pent-up demand in certain sectors.

About rural inflation remaining high, he said it did not take into account the fact that bulk of the population may be getting food grains at zero cost.

Upbeat bet

CEA Anantha Nageswaran is betting GDP growth this fiscal will surpass the projected 7% pace as data gets revised upwards

- CEA says he believes that the current year's (GDP numbers) are more likely to be revised upward than downward
- Real GDP in FY23 is estimated by NSO at ₹159.71 lakh crore vs. first revised estimate for FY22 of ₹149.26 lakh crore
- Real interest rate is not very high at the moment, there is pent-up demand in some sectors, says the CEA

Adani raises ₹15,446 cr. via stake sale to U.S. firm GQG

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

After being battered on the bourses following a scathing report by U.S. short seller Hindenburg Research, the Adani Group on Thursday announced it had sold minority stakes in four listed companies to U.S. based equity investment boutique GQG Partners for ₹15,446 crore.

The transaction in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ), Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL), Adani Transmission Ltd. (ATL) and Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) marks the first major investment in the embattled

conglomerate since Hindenburg accused the group of accounting fraud.

"We value GQG's role as a strategic investor in our infrastructure and utility portfolio," Adani said in a statement, explaining that shares had been sold through secondary market block deals. "This transaction marks the continued confidence of global investors in the governance, management practices and the growth of Adani portfolio of companies," Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh said in the statement.

In AEL, where the promoters held 72.6% stake prior to the sale, 3.8 crore shares representing 3.39% stake was sold for ₹5,460 crore. GQG also acquired 4.1% shareholding in APSEZ for ₹5,282 crore.

Similarly, 2.8 crore shares representing 2.5% stake in ATL was sold for ₹1,898 crore. And in AGEL, GQG bought 5.5 crore shares or 3.5% stake for ₹2,806 crore.

Govt. said to write to SEBI against HZ plan

Reuters

The Indian government has written to the markets regulator underscoring its opposition to Hindustan Zinc's plans to buy two Vedanta Group subsidiaries, three government officials said on Thursday.

The board of Hindustan Zinc (HZL) – in which the government is the largest minority shareholder with a 29.5% stake – had in January approved buying Vedanta's zinc businesses in cash for $2.98 billion.

HZL shares have declined by almost a sixth since then.

The Ministry of Mines said in the letter, sent in February, that despite being the largest minority stakeholder, the government was "kept in the dark" about the deal, one of the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Separately, it had threatened legal action if HZL proceeds with the all-cash deal, according to a letter to the firm, a copy of which was sent to the exchanges.

Vedanta, HZL, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Mines did not respond to e-mailed queries.

India's regulations would allow the government to block the deal, which will qualify as a 'related party transaction' and needs approval from a majority of the minority investors in a company.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,909	-0.84
US Dollar	82.50	0.09
Gold	55,700	-0.45
Brent oil	84.58	1.43

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1607.25	42.95
Adani Ports	622.90	20.80
Apollo Hosp	4402.20	-11.60
Asian Paints	2833.90	-7.00
Axis Bank	845.45	-19.70
Bajaj Auto	3715.25	-16.40
Bajaj Finserv	1343.55	-0.35
Bajaj Finance	6083.00	-71.85
Bharti Airtel	740.10	-10.10
BPCL	321.05	5.15
Britannia Ind	4394.20	14.40
Cipla	886.45	-13.15
Coal India	222.85	4.10
Divis Lab	2861.15	15.85
Dr Reddys Lab	4390.60	46.40
Eicher Motors	3125.50	-13.30
Grasim Ind	1598.50	4.85
HCL Tech	1105.95	4.85
HDFC	2603.10	-15.20
HDFC Bank	1584.45	-13.60
HDFC Life	482.80	-6.95
Hero MotoCorp	2463.35	32.25
Hindalco	410.80	-2.25
Hind Unilever	2455.35	-10.90
ICICI Bank	854.00	-2.30
IndusInd Bank	1102.05	1.60
Infosys	1472.15	-23.90
ITC	375.55	-3.15
JSW Steel	675.10	-1.60
Kotak Bank	1721.70	-23.20
L&T	2121.60	6.30
M&M	1251.55	-20.60
Maruti Suzuki	8548.75	-215.40
NestleIndia	18481.75	-297.10
NTPC	170.80	-1.45
ONGC	154.05	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	220.35	1.45
Reliance Ind	2326.05	-17.85
SBI Life	1100.15	-18.00
State Bank	533.75	-2.95
Sun Pharma	965.30	6.00
TataConsumerProduct	707.35	-7.90
Tata Motors	420.45	-5.55
Tata Steel	104.65	-0.85
TCS	3321.45	-64.25
Tech Mahindra	1109.80	-17.10
Titan	2358.95	-23.45
UltraTech Cement	7289.20	15.05
UPL	705.90	-7.40
Wipro	388.05	-2.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.39	82.71
Euro	87.51	87.85
British Pound	98.58	98.97
Japanese Yen (100)	60.32	60.55
Chinese Yuan	11.94	11.99
Swiss Franc	87.45	87.79
Singapore Dollar	61.14	61.38
Canadian Dollar	60.50	60.74
Malaysian Ringitt	18.40	18.49
Australian Dollar	55.40	55.62

Source:Indian Bank

'EV adoption rising in rural India; NHs have better charging infra'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Tata Motors said it has seen increasing adoption of electric vehicle passenger cars in rural India and the demand was growing.

"Since the introduction of Tiago EV, we have seen growing demand and increasing penetration of EVs in small towns," said Vivek Srivatsa, Head, Marketing, Sales & Service Strategy, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd.

In response to the demand, the company was increasing the production of EVs, he said.

Tata Motors on Thursday announced that the Nexon EV had entered the India Book of Records by

covering the 'fastest' Kashmir to Kanyakumari drive by an EV. The electric vehicle had completed the 4,003-km drive in 95 hours and 46 minutes (under 4 days), proving its ability to undertake multi-city trips.

"This non-stop drive was also possible because of the enhanced uninterrupted public charging network present on the Indian highways," the company said in a statement.

SBI may look to cut Yes Bank stake once lock-in ends: Sources

Reuters
MUMBAI

State Bank of India may look to lower its stake in Yes Bank after a lock-in period ends on March 6, which was put in place by the central bank as a part of the lender's restructuring, two sources told Reuters.

SBI does not want to permanently retain a stake in Yes Bank and would want to trim its holdings, albeit in phases, one of the sources told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"The percentage of equity dilution that the bank intends to do will have to be placed before the RBI in due course."

SBI, which initially acquired 49% of Yes Bank, now holds a 26.14% stake as of Dec. 31, stock exchange data showed. SBI is still the largest single shareholder in the rescued lender.

SBI cannot reduce its holding below 26% before completion of three years from the date of infusion of the capital, as per the reconstruction plan.

The board of SBI is likely to meet soon to decide on the future of its stake in Yes Bank, following which a proposal will be sent to the RBI, the second source said, also requesting anonymity.

SBI and Yes Bank did not reply to a query seeking comment on Reuters' story.

NCLAT okays second round of auction by RCap lenders

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Thursday allowed lenders of Reliance Capital to hold an extended challenge mechanism or second round of auction for the sale of the debt-ridden financial services company.

A two-member bench of the NCLAT also said lenders of RCap had the power to negotiate and call for a higher bid.

It overturned an order of the NCLT Mumbai which had declared the extended challenge round illegal.

Akasa to enter foreign skies by end of 2023

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Akasa Air said it will start international operations to destinations that match the capability of Boeing 737 MAX by the end of calendar year 2023.

Vinay Dube, founder and CEO, Akasa Air said that the airline would introduce international flights by the end of this year and was currently in the process of evaluating location options based on the capability of MAX.

"Our global services could be anywhere in the Middle East, Nepal, East Coast of Africa, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or in several other destina-

Vinay Dube

tions," Mr. Dube said.

"As of now we don't know where, but ideal ones could be in the five-hour flying range," he added.

According to Mr. Dube, Akasa Air has already placed orders for 72 aircraft worth $9 billion of which 18 have been delivered while the remaining would be received by March 2027.

SEBI bans 31 entities over 'misleading' videos on scrip

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

SEBI on Thursday barred 31 entities, including actor Arshad Warsi, his wife Maria Goretti and promoters of Sadhna Broadcast from the securities market in a case related to uploading of misleading videos on YouTube channels recommending investors to buy the company's shares.

SEBI noted that the entities induced unsuspecting investors to buy the Sadhna scrip at elevated prices, prima facie violating the provisions of Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices rules.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F- 71(7,13&21) & 76(8)/22-23/14100-02 & 14106-07 Dated : 02.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.
1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/EPR-38/Call-3 Dt:28.12.2022 for Replacement of existing age-old Control & Relay Panels at the following 66/11kV Sub-stations pertains to TL&SS Division, Hebbal in the jurisdiction of BMAZ north Circle Bengaluru on **Total Turnkey Basis. (1)** 2X31.5MVA Transformer-1 & Transformer-2 at 66/11kV 'C' Station. **(2)** 1X31.5MVA Transformer-1 at 66/11kV Banaswadi Sub-station. **(3)** 1X31.5MVA Transformer-2 & 66kV ITI-2 Line (ITI-Pottery Road) at Pottery Road Sub-station.
2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/EPR-28/CALL-7 Dt:02.09.2022 for Repairs to faulty 31.5MVA, 66/11kV class, BBL make, Sl. No: 4934/20 Power Transformer failed at **66/11kV Banaswadi Sub-station**, BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru on **Total Turnkey Basis** on **Percentage tender basis**.
The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after **04.03.2023** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'e procurement - KPTCL' or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ, North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಘಟಪ್ರಭಾ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ–2 ಜಮಖಂಡಿ,
ಸಂ: ಘ.ಎ.ದಂ.ಕಾ./ವಿ–2/ಪಿಬಿ/2022–23/2227 &2228 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.02.2023
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಜಿಎಲ್‌ಬಿಸಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 2 ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **Standard tender Document: KW-1, KW-2, KW-3** ರನ್ವಯ ಏಕ / ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:	9+18 = 27
ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ:	ರೂ.4.97 ರಿಂದ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ 94.66 ಲಕ್ಷವರೆಗೆ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	ದಿನಾಂಕ 10–03–2023 ರ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	ದಿನಾಂಕ 13–03–2023 ರ ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ/ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನಿಯಮ/ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರೋಸೇಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಘ.ಎ.ದಂ ಕಾಲುವೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ–2,
ಜಮಖಂಡಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/941/22–23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Indian Bank
ಅಲಹಾಬಾದ್ ALLAHABAD
Zonal Office, 4th Floor, East Wing
Raheja Towers, No.26, 27 M G Road
BANGALORE – 560 001
PH: 080-22958899

Corrigendum To Notice inviting Tenders

With reference to our advertisement dated **16.02.2023** calling for tenders for opening of new branches at the following locations **Electronic City Phase 2, Mahadevpura, Manyata Business Park, Marathahalli, Sarjapur Road, SSI Peenya stage 2, Whitefield, Kolar.**
The last date for receipt of bids is hereby extended up to **20.03.2023.** For more details, please refer website **http://www.indianbank.in/tender.php**

Sd/- ZONAL MANAGER

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Shimoga.
SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR TENDERS KW-3&4
IFT No.: 38/2022-23 **Dated:17.02.2023**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shimoga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document K/W-4 through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for Construction of Series of Check dam and Bridge cum Check dam across Kallatti halla in Tarikere Taluk Chikkamagalore District coming under Tarikere sub- division amounting to Rs. 1687.37 lakhs. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 23.02.2023 to 06.03.2023 upto 13:00hrs. Tender opening date at 13:15 hrs on 07.03.2023. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website@ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.
DIPR/smg/No.01/03/mca/22-23/2025

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Fax No. 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Corrigendum Notification No: 52-02/2022-23
Dated: 02.03.2023

With reference to this office Tender Notification No.: **52/2022-23 Dated: 03.02.2023** Corrigendum is issued for the following works with the Calendar of events as mentioned below :
For Sl No. 02
1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated: 02.03.2023 onwards**.
2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on dated **17.03.2023**
3) The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **18.03.2023 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time to be intimated. Note: All other conditions of tender notification remain unaltered.
For more details contact this office or can be had from e-procurement portal (**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/5025/Zen/2022-23

STELLAR SHOW

Rabada bowls South Africa to victory in opening Test

Kagiso Rabada picked up six for 50 to bowl South Africa to an 87-run victory over West Indies in the first Test at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Thursday.
The scores: South Africa 342 & 116 (Markram 47, Roach 5/47) bt West Indies 212 & 159 (Blackwood 79, Rabada 6/50).

KEEPING THE FAITH

New Zealand retains Test squad for Sri Lanka series

New Zealand has named a 13-member squad for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka at home that features most of the players who helped it defeat England by one run at Wellington recently. NZC on Thursday announced the squad under captain Tim Southee for the series beginning on March 9.

ALL SET FOR ACTION

Stroll returns from injury for Aston Martin at Bahrain GP

Lance Stroll is set to drive for Aston Martin at the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix this week after missing pre-season testing due to a wrist injury. Reserve driver Felipe Drugovich replaced Stroll as teammate to Fernando Alonso in testing after the Canadian's accident while training in Spain.

INCREDIBLE FIGHTBACK

Rublev saves five match points, outlasts Fokina in thriller

Defending champion Andrey Rublev produced a 1-6, 7-6(6), 7-6(3) comeback win over Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Dubai championships. The Russian saved five match points in the second-set tiebreaker and won seven straight points after going down 1-6.

Lyon-hearted Australia on the verge of victory despite Pujara's sturdy defiance

Aussie off-spinner revels in the conditions to scalp eight as the Indian batters fail to find their footing after Umesh, who picked up his 100th Test wicket in India, and Ashwin restrict the visitors' lead; Smith's men need 76 to make it 2-1 in the series

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

S. Dinakar
INDORE

Not for nothing is he called GOAT by teammates. Over 100 Tests and 450 scalps, Nathan Lyon is still buzzing.

His off-spin has flight, deception, turn and consistency. His deliveries have dip and drift. You reach out for the ball and it's not there. That's Lyon holding the ball on a string!

Intense focus

His focus intense over long spells, the 35-year-old Lyon took flight on day two of the third Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test at the Holkar Stadium here on Thursday. His headline-grabbing eight for 64 has put Australia on the verge of victory.

Ahead in the first innings by 88, Australia dismissed India for 163 in the second innings. Australia's target to make the series 2-1 on Friday is 76.

It was Lyon's day. The classical off-spinner, pivoting beautifully, and bowling with rhythm and skill was helped by attacking captaincy by Steve Smith.

Old soldier Cheteshwar Pujara, with steel in his bones, impressed on a dusty surface where the ball turned, jumped or kept low. While his defence was solid and played with soft hands, Pujara drove, flicked, cut and pulled with assurance.

He even jumped down and lifted Lyon for a six over wide long-on. It was the Pujara punch. He shortened his back-lift and his distribution of weight and footwork was ideal.

He fell to a sensational reflex catch by Smith at leg slip as Pujara (59) flicked a Lyon delivery spinning from middle to leg.

The dramatic day had several phases. The Indians attacked after Tea.

Shreyas Iyer, twice, pulled Matthew Kuhnemann for sixes. Smith turned to Mitchell Starc. Shreyas (26 off 27) flicked the left-arm quick but Usman Khawaja plucked an astonishing catch at mid-wicket.

Among the subsequent batters, only R. Ashwin managed to make an impression. Others found Lyon too much to handle.

Madness

Earlier, Shubman Gill's charge-and-heave at Lyon was midsummer madness. Lyon got rid of Rohit Sharma, playing across, even as the delivery held its line. Kuhnemann sent back Virat Kohli with a delivery that skidded through.

Ravindra Jadeja played down the wrong line to a Lyon delivery that drifted in.

In the morning, Handscomband Cameron Green held firm.

Australia was comfortably placed at 186 for four when the spin-pace combination of Ashwin, troubling batters from round-the-wicket angle, and the red-hot Umesh Yadav tangoed with deadly effect as the visitors lost their last six wickets for 11 runs to be bowled out for 197 in an all too familiar meltdown.

Ashwin spun one from middle to leg to remove Handscomb (19) and then got a delivery to fatally drift into the left-handed Alex Carey.

Umesh, bowling with speed and reverse swing, took out Green (21) and knocked out Starc's off-stump for his 100th Test wicket in India.

Then, Lyon assumed centre-stage.

Roar of delight: Lyon underlined why teammates call him GOAT with a masterly display of spin bowling. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS: 109.
AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
Travis Head lbw b Jadeja 9 *(6b, 1x4)*, Usman Khawaja c Gill b Jadeja 60 *(147b, 4x4)*, Marnus Labuschagne b Jadeja 31 *(91b, 1x4)*, Steve Smith c Bharat b Jadeja 26 *(38b, 4x4)*, Peter Handscomb c Shreyas b Ashwin 19 *(98b, 1x4)*, Cameron Green lbw b Umesh 21 *(57b, 2x4)*, Alex Carey lbw b Ashwin 3 *(7b)*, Mitchell Starc b Umesh 1 *(3b)*, Nathan Lyon b Ashwin 5 *(8b, 1x4)*, Todd Murphy b Umesh 0 *(6b)*, Matthew Kuhnemann (not out) 0 *(3b)*; Extras (b-9, lb-8, nb-5): 22; Total (in 76.3 overs): 197.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-12 (Head, 1.4), 2-108 (Labuschagne, 34.3), 3-125 (Khawaja, 42.3), 4-146 (Smith, 48.5), 5-186 (Handscomb, 70.6), 6-188 (Green, 71.6), 7-192 (Starc, 73.3), 8-196 (Carey, 74.1), 9-197 (Murphy, 75.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Ashwin 20.3-4-44-3, Jadeja 32-8-78-4, Axar 13-1-33-0, Umesh 5-0-12-3, Siraj 6-1-13-0.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Rohit Sharma lbw b Lyon 12 *(33b)*, Shubman Gill b Lyon 5 *(15b)*, Cheteshwar Pujara c Smith b Lyon 59 *(142b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli lbw b Kuhnemann 13 *(26b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Lyon 7 *(36b)*, Shreyas Iyer c Khawaja b Starc 26 *(27b, 3x4, 2x6)*, K.S. Bharat b Lyon 3 *(8b)*, R. Ashwin lbw b Lyon 16 *(28b, 2x4)*, Axar Patel (not out) 15 *(39b, 1x6)*, Umesh Yadav c Green b Lyon 0 *(2b)*, Mohammed Siraj b Lyon 0 *(7b)*; Extras (b-3, lb-4): 7; Total (in 60.3 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-15 (Gill, 4.6), 2-32 (Rohit, 14.4), 3-54 (Kohli, 22.4), 4-78 (Jadeja, 30.5), 5-113 (Shreyas, 37.2), 6-118 (Bharat, 40.1), 7-140 (Ashwin, 48.1), 8-155 (Pujara, 56.3), 9-155 (Umesh, 56.5).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 7-1-14-1, Kuhnemann 16-2-60-1, Lyon 23.3-1-64-8, Murphy 14-6-18-0.

Battling knock: Pujara's steady hand kept Australia at bay, at least for a while. R.V. MOORTHY

Youngsters can learn from Pujara, says Lyon

S. Dinakar
INDORE

From a groundsman at Adelaide to one of the greatest spinners in the game, it has been a remarkable journey for Nathan Lyon. Even as he has grown in stature, Lyon has remained remarkably grounded, a kind of father figure to Australia's young spin pack in India.

The 35-year-old off-spinner's remarkable eight for 64 on the second day of the third Test here on Thursday, has provided Australia with a gilt-edged chance of victory. Patience is a spinner's hallmark and, over his long journey, Lyon has worked diligently on his skill-set, adding new tricks.

Welcome break

Lyon said here after the day's play, "After Delhi, the long break was good for team-building." He called India "a quality team" and said it was "a challenge to play against them."

Lyon bowled a variety of deliveries, but said, "Trusting my stock ball really helped."

Coming round-the-wicket opened up all forms of dismissals for him, Lyon said. The champion off-spinner said, "Steve Smith brought with him tactics to the team."

On the remarkable catch at leg-slip by Smith off his bowling to dismiss a battling Cheteshwar Pujara, Lyon acknowledged, "Smith is the only one who could have taken that catch."

Lyon lauded Pujara's effort, "Pujara is not flashy, youngsters should learn defence from him."

Talking about his formative years, Lyon said, "My dad told me to do my own work properly and let things fall in place. Stay calm and not be under any pressure.

On Usman Khawaja hurting himself while taking a fantastic catch to dismiss Shreyas Iyer, Lyon said, 'Khawaja is most probably good to play."

Think positive

Umesh Yadav, who bowled a searing spell of speed and reverse swing in the morning, said "I always come with a positive frame of mind, my strategy is to hit the deck hard and make the ball do the rest."

On the challenges of bowling on Indian pitches for a fast bowler, Umesh said, "I have bowled so much in India that my body and mind have got accustomed to bowling in these conditions."

About India defending 76 on Friday, he said, "We have to remain positive and give our best."

MP stops RoI from running away with it

IRANI CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
GWALIOR

After a lacklustre performance with the ball on the opening day, Madhya Pradesh's bowlers came back strongly to restrict Rest of India to 484 in its first innings of the Irani Cup at the Captain Roop Singh Stadium here on Thursday.

After RoI resumed the second day at 381 for three, MP's bowlers used the early morning conditions well in the first session with the second new ball and took the last seven wickets for just 102 runs.

In reply, the hosts started poorly, losing three wickets with just 15 on the board. Speedster Navdeep Saini bowled with pace and accuracy, picking up two wickets.

However, Yash Dubey (53 n.o.) and Harsh Gawli (47 n.o.) fought back with an unbroken 97-run stand for the fourth wicket as MP finished the day on 112 for three and trailed by 372 runs.

Earlier, pacer Ankit Kushwah struck in the third over of the day to remove nightwatchman Saurabh Kumar, who dragged a wide delivery onto his stumps.

Avesh Khan (4/74), the best bowler on day one for MP, continued to impress. He bowled a nagging line on off-stump, beating the bat regularly.

B. Indrajith got squared up a few times and was eventually caught behind when medium-pacer Anubhav Agarwal got one to move away just a bit.

At the other end, Yash Dhull (55) looked positive and kept finding the boundaries with flicks and drives. He whipped left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya off the back foot to get to his half-century in style.

Avesh. FILE PHOTO

Just before the first session ended, MP got two quick wickets to leave Rest of India at 467 for seven.

Immediately after the break, Kartikeya trapped Dhull leg-before before Avesh cleaned up the tail, taking the last two wickets off successive deliveries.

The scores:
Rest of India — 1st innings: Mayank Agarwal c Mantri b Avesh 2, Abhimanyu Easwaran run out 154, Yashasvi Jaiswal b Avesh 213, Saurabh Kumar b Kushwah 0, B. Indrajith c Mantri b Agarwal 19, Yash Dhull lbw b Kartikeya 55, Upendra Yadav b Kartikeya 14, Atit Sheth c Mantri b Agarwal 0, Pulkit Narang not out 8, Navdeep Saini c Kartikeya b Avesh 9, Mukesh Kumar c Mantri b Avesh 0, Extras (b-2, lb-6, nb-2): 10; Total (in 121.3 overs): 484
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-378, 3-378, 4-382, 5-433, 6-466, 7-467, 8-469, 9-484.
Madhya Pradesh bowling: Avesh 23.3-6-74-4, Anubhav 18-2-83-2, Kushwah 16-2-59-1, Saransh Jain 24-0-103-0, Kartikeya 32-5-118-2, Shubham 6-0-30-0, Aquil 2-0-9-0.
Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: Himanshu Mantri c Dhull b Saini 1, Arham Aquil c Upendra b Mukesh 0, Shubham Sharma lbw b Saini 4, Harsh Gwali (batting) 47, Yash Dubey (batting) 53, Extras (b-1, lb-4, nb-2): 7; Total (for three wickets in 43 overs): 112.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-2, 3-15.
Rest of India bowling: Mukesh 11-3-27-1, Saini 10-4-15-2, Sheth 10-2-33-0, Saurabh 9-3-26-0, Narang 3-1-6-0.

Cho causes biggest flutter on day of upsets

WTT CONTENDER

Amol Karhadkar
PANAJI

Cho Daeseong of Korea stunned World No. 1 Fan Zhendong of China in the men's singles second round while Sutirtha Mukherjee and Manika Batra caused upsets to make it to the women's singles pre-quarterfinal and keep India's campaign alive in the the WTT Star Contender Goa 2023.

On a day that saw multiple upsets – including Manika and G. Sathiyan bowing out of the mixed doubles quarterfinal – Daeseong, Sutirtha and Manika starred at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.

Cho – the southpaw ranked 193 and who made it to the main draw through the qualification rounds – sent World No. 1 Fan Zhendong of China packing in the round of 32 to register the biggest win of his career.

Trailing 2-0, the Korean came back to win the second-round encounter 7-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-8 in 30 minutes.

Sutirtha then repeated the script by making short work of World No. 18 Jia Nan Yuan of France 11-7, 11-8, 11-7.

The Bengal girl, who regained her mojo after a mediocre 2022 with the National Games, continued her surge with an emphatic win in her maiden Star Contender appearance.

While all the other Indians, barring Sutirtha, fared miserably, Manika joined the party late in the evening by defeating Puerto Rico's Adriana Diaz, the World No. 14, in four games.

Despite Diaz getting used to Manika's long pimples and exposing her weakness in the third game, the Indian's aggressive instincts and the unmasking of Diaz's forehand ensured the Indian wrapped up the match 3-1.

Giant-killer: Cho scripted a remarkable come-from-behind win against World No. 1 Fan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Important results:

Men (round-of-32): Yukiya Uda (Jpn) bt G. Sathiyan 11-9, 11-5, 11-8; Cho Daeseong (Kor) bt Fan Zhendong (Chn) 7-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-8; An Jaehyun (Kor) bt Patrick Franziska (Ger) 11-2, 11-7, 9-11, 4-11, 11-8.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Woojin Jang & Jonghoon Lim (Kor) bt Harmeet Desai & Manav Thakkar 12-10, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6.
Women (round-of-32): Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Jia Nan Yuan (Fra) 11-7, 11-8, 11-7; Manika Batra bt Adriana Diaz (PUE) 11-9, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Linda Bergstrom & Christina Kallberg (SWE) bt Sutirtha & Ayhika Mukherjee 11-7, 13-11, 6-11, 11-7.
Mixed doubles (quarterfinals): Miwa Harimoto & Shunsuke Togami (Jpn) bt Manika & Sathiyan 12-10, 11-6, 11-6.

Money no object when you want the best is RCB's watchword

It won an intense bidding war with Mumbai Indians to pick Smriti; added overseas stars Perry, Schutt and Devine along with India's Richa and Renuka

WPL COUNTDOWN

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Royal Challengers Bangalore loves to buy the biggest of stars. For the IPL it signed up men like Virat Kohli, A.B. de Villiers and Chris Gayle. The auction for the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League also saw the franchise bidding for the brightest stars in the women's game.

RCB showed its intention with the very first player to go under the hammer. It won an intense bidding war with Mumbai Indians to pick Smriti Mandhana, the elegant India opener, for ₹3.4 crore. That would remain the most expensive buy of the auction.

Impact Player

RCB will hope that Smriti Mandhana will lead from the front

- Smriti's batting is easy on the eye. She is the kind of batter who you would pay to watch. Her drives and lofts are things of beauty. Few openers in the women's game could shape their team's innings the way she could. She could very well shape RCB's destiny, too

THE SCHEDULE

March 5: vs Delhi Capitals (Brabourne)
March 6: Mumbai Indians (Brabourne)
March 8: Gujarat Giants (Brabourne)
March 10: UP Warriorz (Brabourne)
March 13: Delhi Capitals (DY Patil)
March 15: UP Warriorz (DY Patil)
March 18: Gujarat Giants (Brabourne)
March 21: Mumbai Indians (DY Patil)

THE DUGOUT

Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh, Ellyse Perry, Renuka Singh, Sophie Devine, Heather Knight, Kanika Ahuja, Megan Schutt, Dane Van Niekerk, Erin Burns, Preeti Bose, Komal Zanzad, Asha Shobana, Disha Kasat, Indrani Roy, Poonam Khemnar, Shreyanka Patil and Sahana Pawar.

Coach: Ben Sawyer

Stars in the line-up

RCB also roped in stars like Australia's Ellyse Perry and Megan Schutt, New Zealand's Sophie Devine and India's Richa Ghosh and Renuka Singh. RCB was, indeed, able to put together an enviable squad.

It has a formidable bunch of all-rounders – Perry, Devine, Dane van Niekerk (South Africa) and Heather Knight (England). They, along with Smriti, who has been named skipper, form an experienced batting line-up.

Veteran all-rounder Erin Burns, who is also from Australia, is another smart signing by RCB.

In Richa Ghosh, RCB has a brilliant finisher. The wicketkeeper is fast evolving as one of the most feared batters in women's cricket.

Renuka and Schutt could form one of the most lethal new-ball attacks in the WPL, while Perry is an excellent option as the third seamer.

Uncapped left-arm seamer Komal Zanzad, who has been around for a long time on the domestic circuit, should be itching for an opportunity like the WPL. And there is also Devine to bowl seam.

RCB may not boast the biggest names in spin, but a couple of lesser-known home players – both from Bengaluru, in fact – offer promise.

At the Senior Women's T20 Challenger Trophy tournament at Raipur in November, off-spinner Shreyanka Patil and left-arm spinner Sahana Pawar had impressed.

They bowled some fine spells in front of the chief selector of Indian women's cricket and RCB's talent scout. There is also the more seasoned left-armer Preeti Bose. Van Niekerk is a fine leg-spinner, too.

Don't be surprised if RCB's women bring the league title home to Bengaluru before the men.

MI's mix of stars have it in them to fulfil fans' hopes

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Mumbai Indians boasts a stellar record in the IPL.

With five trophies, it is the most successful franchise in the world's most glamorous cricket league's history.

The expectations must be great from the Mumbai Indians fans about the women's team too.

Though Mumbai didn't get the player it apparently wanted most, despite waging an intense bid war with Royal Challengers Bangalore at the auction for the inaugural WPL, it nevertheless managed to form a side that is an excellent mix of Indian and overseas stars. The most the franchise spent was on England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt – ₹3.2 crore, ₹20 lakh less than what RCB paid for Smriti.

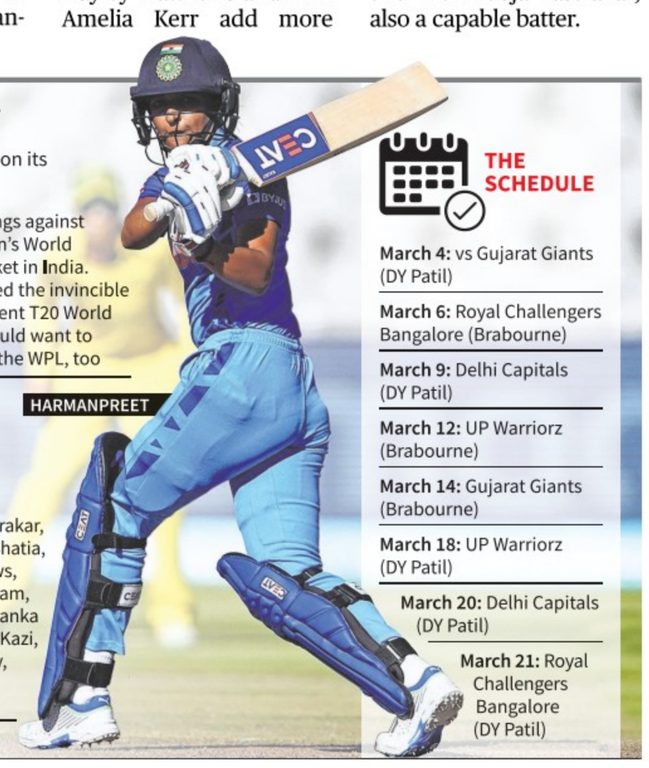
With 5,184 runs and 144 wickets in international white-ball cricket, she is one of the world's premier all-rounders. She would be one of the main batters for Mumbai Indians.

The biggest star in its batting line-up is India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur. She was bought for ₹1.80 crore, an amount less than many would have expected.

Harmanpreet, a brilliant striker of the ball, is a match-winner. West Indian Hayley Matthews and Kiwi Amelia Kerr add more power to the MI batting.

Matthews is likely to open with wicketkeeper Yastika Bhatia, who seems to be working hard to improve her strike-rate in the shortest format; she made 80 not out off 56 balls and 99 not out off 61 balls at the Senior Women's T20 Challenger Trophy in Raipur three months ago. Those who saw her at that tournament may not be surprised that MI shelled out ₹1.5 crore for her.

MI's bowling may not look as star-studded as its batting, but Australian Heather Graham and Englishwoman Issy Wong could form a lethal seam trio with Pooja Vastrakar, also a capable batter.



Impact Player

MI will be banking heavily on its inspirational captain

- Harmanpreet Kaur's innings against Australia in the 2017 Women's World Cup changed women's cricket in India. Another knock nearly spoiled the invincible Australians' party at the recent T20 World Cup in South Africa. She would want to serve something special at the WPL, too

THE DUGOUT

Nat Sciver-Brunt, Pooja Vastrakar, Harmanpreet Kaur, Yastika Bhatia, Amelia Kerr, Hayley Matthews, Amanjot Kaur, Heather Graham, Chloe Tryon, Issy Wong, Priyanka Bala, Dhara Gujjar, Humaira Kazi, Saika Ishaque, Sonam Yadav, Neelam Bisht and Jintimani Kalita

Coach: Charlotte Edwards

THE SCHEDULE

March 4: vs Gujarat Giants (DY Patil)
March 6: Royal Challengers Bangalore (Brabourne)
March 9: Delhi Capitals (DY Patil)
March 12: UP Warriorz (Brabourne)
March 14: Gujarat Giants (Brabourne)
March 18: UP Warriorz (DY Patil)
March 20: Delhi Capitals (DY Patil)
March 21: Royal Challengers Bangalore (DY Patil)

Gukesh. FILE PHOTO

ACF confers Gukesh with 'player of the year' award

Press Trust of India
ABU DHABI

Indian GM D. Gukesh has been honoured with player-of-the-year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold with nine points out of 11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad last year.

All India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the most active federation award, conferred during the ACF annual summit, which is underway here. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has been conferred with man-of-the-year award for his efforts in the successful hosting of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in August 2022.

Indian women's team, comprising K. Humpy, D. Harika, R. Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni, was adjudged the best women's team-of-the-year for its bronze-winning effort. GM R.B. Ramesh bagged the men's coach-of-the-year award while GM Abhijit Kunte won the women's coach-of-the-year trophy.

Sawyer impressed with Indian women in RCB

Pleased: Sawyer says the sessions in sthe RCB nets have been impressive. TWITTER/RCBTWEETS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Ben Sawyer, the women's coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), stated that he was impressed with the young Indian players in the team.

"Saying impressed [with young Indian talent] would be an understatement.

"The last few days in the nets have been outstanding. Shreyanka [Patil] with her off-spin, Disha [Kasat] at the top there, there is someone like Poonam [Khemnar] with a power-hitting ability and Asha [Shobana] bowling leg-spin has been as good as anybody that we have on ground," Sawyer said in a virtual interaction on Thursday.

RCB's squad for the Women's Premier League also includes popular international names like India opener Smriti Mandhana, Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry, New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine and South African all-rounder Dane Van Niekerk.

Mike Hesson, RCB Director of Cricket, stated that retired tennis star Sania Mirza will revel in her role as team mentor. Sania, a six-time Grand Slam champion, is an icon for women's sport, Hesson said.

It will be a challenge to bring out the best from all: Capitals skipper Lanning

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals announced here on Thursday that Meg Lanning would be its captain in the Women's Premier League. If the franchise had chosen anyone else, it would have been the biggest shock of the WPL, even before the tournament has started.

Lanning is in a league of her own as captain in women's cricket. When she led Australia to victory at the Women's T20 World Cup in Cape Town last Sunday, she was winning an ICC trophy for the fifth time, beating the record of compatriot Ricky Ponting, who led the men's team to four titles.

She said she was looking forward to the challenge of leading Capitals. "It's going to be exciting and hopefully we can do well," she said. "The first step is to make the final and hopefully go on from there."

Lanning believes one of the challenges of being captain in a tournament like the WPL is to bring out the best from everyone, not just international players.

Capitals outfit: Captain Meg Lanning, head coach Jonathan Batty and JSW Paints CEO A.S. Sundaresan, centre, unveil the Delhi jersey. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I will lean on Jemimah Rodrigues and Shafali Verma to bring all that together," she said. "It is a great opportunity for the youngsters to play alongside their heroes like Jemi and Shafali."

Talking of Shafali, she said she wanted to bat alongside the aggressive India opener and see her dominate.

"I can't wait to stand at the other end and watch her whack other teams around the park instead of having to stand in the field, which I have done for a few years," she laughed.

> I will lean on Jemimah Rodrigues and Shafali Verma. It is a great opportunity for the youngsters to play alongside their heroes like Jemi and Shafali.
> LANNING

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

All-round show by Sunil Narayan

Sunil Narayan's all-round effort (72 & 4/40) powered Canara Union CC to a 62-run win over Malleswaram SC in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division league.

In another match, A.C. Varshith scored 142 to set up Crescent CC (2)'s 186-run win over Bangalore Star CA.

The scores:

Canara Union CC 261 in 49.5 overs (Prathama S. Bharadwaj 74, Prateek Goel 33, Sunil Narayan 72, K. Vishnu Chaitanya 3/44) bt Malleswaram SC 199 in 36.2 overs (K. Vishnu Chaitanya 47, K.A. Jathan 54 n.o., S.V. Shiva Kumar 28, Sunil Narayan 4/40).

Crescent CC (2) 383/7 in 50 overs (A.C. Varshith 142, Syed Adil 69, S. Daivik 56 n.o., N. Karthik 31 n.o.) bt Bangalore Star CA 197 in 49.2 overs (Aditya Kulkarni 33, Manjunath 29, Harsh P. Jain 44).

Zodiac CC 146 in 42 overs (B. Girish 61 n.o., G. Sujith 4/24) bt Crescent CC (2) 134 in 48 overs (Saleem Ali 26, Syed Adil 32).

Vivekananda Union CC 206 in 43.5 overs (Harsh Singh 48) lost to Rajajinagar Colts CA 209/3 in 29.1 overs (Rajeev Bhaskar 29, Amar Singh Varma 55, K. Nithish 62, Abhishek Saini 29 n.o., Deepak Chauhan 27 n.o.).

Dolphin Cricketers 267 in 46 overs (B.D. Chandan Raj 79, U. Jaganatha Raju 37, Tarun Desai 47, S. Nithin 4/34) lost to Young CA, Kolar 271/7 in 49 overs (R. Harish Karthik 69, Karthik Keshav Kumar 27, A.V. Naga Dilip 49, R. Monish Karthik 48, Leander 3/48).

Kapali CC 308/9 in 50 overs (Ayush Ranjan 56, Rupak 126, Mehwish Shafiq 33, G. Prateek Jain 3/53, Kushwanth Y. Shetty 3/16) bt MES College 304 in 48.5 overs (G. Prateek Jain 105, K.S. Rakesh 70, R. Suhas 39, Rupak 4/59).

Blaze CC, Hoskote 152 in 37.1 overs (Manjunath Shaivas 35, Saleem Malick 4/40) lost to United Cricketers 155/7 in 35.2 overs (Dandapani 29).

YMCA CC (3) 203 in 45.5 overs (Amit D. Kulkarni 98, Shameek Kolambkar 5/43) lost to Sapphire CC 205/4 in 37.4 overs (K.P. Bipin 102 n.o., Sachin Handi 31, Amit Shashikant Koiambkar 37).

Bangalore Indian CC 116 in 26.4 overs (Manoj Kumar 27, Suresh Krishnan 25 n.o., S. Subbu Yadav Prasad 3/17) lost to Bowlers CC 117/8 in 34.4 overs (Roshan Kumar 33, J. Santosh 33, Suresh Krishnan 4/24).

Govt Science College 88 in 21.2 overs (B.K. Gopi 36, S.H. Nagesh 3/19, M. Naveen 5/35) lost to Johnson CC 89/5 in 14.5 overs (A. Narendrababu 27, R. Shashank 3/22).

YMCA CC (1) 71 in 24 overs (Nihansh Poojary 4/9) lost to ACE Cricketers 72/2 in 9.3 overs (A. Pranav Kumar 37).

MES College 339/7 in 50 overs (K.S. Rakesh 112, Rakesh 33, R. Suhas 100, M. Ronak 29) bt Friends CC 152 in 33.1 overs (A. Adarsh 39).

Gary Cricketers 293 in 46.1 overs (Ashique Rasul Ahmed 30, T.G. Uday 93, S. Akhilesh 36, R. Lokesh 52, Kiran Mukunda 3/33, G. Ravi 4/49) bt Bangalore Dynamos SC 289/9 in 50 overs (C.H. Kashish 72, Sathvik 68, J.B. Umesh 38, Krushna V. Rao 35, R. Lokesh 3/42, T.G. Uday 3/39).

Head Quarters CC 186 in 43 overs (Sujay 30, N.S. Pavan 51 n.o., Dhruv Vasu 4/35, Samarth Kulkarni 3/52) lost to Sri Jayachamarajendra CC 187/9 in 48.3 overs (Shounak 37, Aditya Navalgund 32, M. Bharath 3/26, S. Vignesh 3/32).

Thunderbolts down Defenders, top league phase

Superb show: Thunderbolts' universal Vinit Kumar, right, was in fine form on Thursday. H. VIBHU

PVL

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

The battle for the top spot in the Prime Volleyball League turned out to be a tame affair. Kolkata Thunderbolts, second in the table after the penultimate match, defeated league leader Ahmedabad Defenders 3-2 after taking a winning 3-0 lead earlier.

The victory saw Kolkata finish on top of the table with 12 points while Ahmedabad was second with 11.

Kolkata Thunderbolts will play Bengaluru Torpedoes in the first semifinal on Friday, while Ahmedabad Defenders take on Calicut Heroes on Saturday.

Kolkata led 11-4 in the opening set and 10-2 in the next and that should give an indication on the team's dominance on the night.

Semifinal line-up

March 3: Thunderbolts vs. Torpedoes
March 4: Defenders vs. Heroes

Good display

Kolkata's universal Vinit Kumar was in fine form both in the attack and block. He also produced a super serve in the opening set and won a super point in the next when he smashed down Ahmedabad's two-man block.

Kolkata put up a two-man wall for universal R. Angamuthu and set up three men to handle attacker S. Nandagopal and that shattered Ahmedabad's confidence to a good extent. After having taken a winning 3-0 lead, Kolkata probably relaxed in the next two sets for it has to play the semifinal on Friday.

The result:

Kolkata Thunderbolts bt Ahmedabad Defenders 3-2 (15-7, 15-4, 15-13, 8-15, 11-15).

Vaughan racism allegations 'word against word', says his lawyer

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Michael Vaughan's lawyer said allegations of racism made against the former England captain by Azeem Rafiq are "word against word" at a hearing on Thursday. Pakistan-born Rafiq had first raised allegations of racism and bullying in September 2020.

Indian challenge comes to an end

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

All four Indians in the singles draw, including Ankita Raina, lost in the second round of the PBI-CSE ITF 25K Open on Thursday.

The results: Valentini Grammatikopoulou (Gre) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 5-7, 7-5; Dea Herdzelas (Bih) bt Humera Baharmus 6-2, 6-2; Misaki Doi (Jpn) bt Ankita Raina 6-1, 6-3; Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-4, 6-3.

INBRIEF

Mourinho cops two-match ban for rant against referee

Jose Mourinho picked up a two-match ban on Wednesday following his outburst against the referee in Roma's 2-1 loss to Cremonese. The result knocked his team out of the Serie A top three, dropping it to fifth, one point behind city rivals Lazio. Serie A also handed out a €10,000 fine to Mourinho.

Real Kashmir maintains unbeaten streak

Real Kashmir remained unbeaten for the sixth game in a row after playing out a 1-1 draw with Mumbai Kenkre FC in the I-League in Srinagar on Thursday. Samuel Kynshi put the home side in the lead in the 68th minute only to see Banpynkhrawnam Nongkhlaw equalised in the final minutes of the game (90+3).

ISL club fans to be segregated to avoid clashes

To avoid fan clashes of the kind witnessed in the previous fixture between Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC, supporters of both clubs will be segregated for Friday's knockout contest in Bengaluru. Travelling supporters found in possession of tickets to stands other than those designated will be moved to one of the away stands (if seating is available) or denied entry to the stadium, the clubs jointly resolved.

Pavard says he has no plans to leave Bayern Munich

Bayern Munich defender Benjamin Pavard has ended speculation he is leaving at the end of the season, saying on Thursday he had never intimated he wanted to.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Australia: 3rd Test, day 3, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Irani Trophy: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs England: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 11.30 a.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday).
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday).
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Bengaluru FC starts as favourite against Blasters

The host has eight wins on the trot after a poor start to the season had sown seeds of doubts; up for grabs is the chance to take on Mumbai City in the semifinals

ISL-9

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Top guy: The Blasters' defence will have its hands full trying to stop an in-form Roy Krishna, right. ISL / FOCUS SPORTS

There was a time, not so long ago, when Bengaluru FC was staring at a third straight below-par season. After collecting just 10 points from the first 12 matches, the 2018-19 Indian Super League champion seemed set to miss out on a playoff spot even in a generous, new format where six out of 11 teams would make the grade.

But with eight wins on the trot, Simon Grayson's side has not only stormed into the playoff round but is the favourite going into the single-leg knock-out contest against Kerala Blasters FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Friday. At stake is a spot in the semifinal against Mumbai City FC.

With just one win from the last five outings and none from the previous six away fixtures, KBFC will need an inspirational performance.

For that, two figures who can enliven proceedings, Adrian Luna and Dimitrios Diamantakos (10 goals), cannot be as silent as they were in the most recent tie between the two sides (a 1-0 home win for BFC last month).

Part of it was also down to BFC's defence – just six goals conceded in the last eight matches – led by the outstanding Sandesh Jhingan, who will look to continue in similar vein.

In Javi Hernandez, BFC has a gamechanger, and in Roy Krishna and N. Sivasakthi, an in-form front two. KBFC will have to stop the trio that has accounted for 17 of BFC's 27 goals this season. But without midfielder Ivan Kaliuzhnyi (suspended), it will be quite a task.

Arsenal motors along nicely

Bullet strike: Saka unleashes a fiery shot to give Arsenal the lead against Everton. GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Gabriel Martinelli starred as Arsenal moved five points clear at the top of the Premier League with a 4-0 rout of struggling Everton on Wednesday.

Bukayo Saka broke Everton's stubborn resistance late in the first half before Brazilian forward Martinelli doubled Arsenal's lead at the Emirates Stadium.

Martin Odegaard bagged the third and Martinelli wrapped up Arsenal's biggest victory since October on a night that could serve as another landmark moment in its surge towards the title.

It was essential for Mikel Arteta's side to win its game in hand on second-placed Manchester City as the title race approaches its climax.

Liverpool moved into the top six as goals from Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah deepened Wolves' relegation fears with a 2-0 defeat at Anfield.

Jurgen Klopp's men have now taken 10 points from a possible 12 in their last four league games.

The results: Arsenal 4 (Saka 40, Martinelli 45+1, 80, Odegaard 71) bt Everton 0; Liverpool 2 (Van Dijk 73, Salah 77) bt Wolves 0.

Jeswin now owns men's long jump National record

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Fruits of labour: Jeswin feels the record is the result of the hard work turned in over the last few years. FILE PHOTO: S. MAHINSHA

Jeswin Aldrin came up with a massive world-leading 8.42m long jump that broke M. Sreeshankar's one-year-old National record in the second Indian Open Jumps Championships at the JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports, Ballari, on Thursday.

He opened with 8.05, equalled his personal best with his next (8.26) and then broke the National record with his third jump. It was also the second time Jeswin was achieving the qualification standard for this year's World Championships in Budapest.

"The national record has been a while coming and I am happy it has come at a venue where I have been training. It is the result of the hard work turned in here over the last few years," said Jeswin.

Tajinderpal Singh Toor won the men's shot put gold with a meet record throw of 19.95m, and claimed a spot in the Asian Games breaching the 19 metres qualification standard.

In the women's shot put, Manpreet Kaur started the season strongly by throwing 16.73m to clinch gold and also breach the Asian Games qualification mark of 16.30 metres.

The results (winners):

Men: Long jump: Jeswin Aldrin 8.42m. **Shot put:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor 10.95m; **Hammer:** Yuvraj Jakhar 52.69m; **Discus:** Manjeet 51.24m.

Women: Pole vault: G Sindhushree 3.50m; **High jump:** Abhinaya Shetty and Rubina Yadav 1.73m; **Long jump:** L Sruthilekshmi 6.11m; **Triple jump:** Gayathry Sivakumar 12.98m.

Hammer: Rekha 54.44m; **Shot put:** Manpreet Kaur 16.73m; **Discus:** Kalavathi Basappa 44.83m; **Javelin:** Karishma Sanil 47.60m.

Karnataka reaping the rewards of improving league system

Amitabha Das Sharma
RIYADH

Karnataka senior men's football team head coach Ravi Babu Raju has told the players not to celebrate till they achieve their goal of winning the Santosh Trophy.

Raju and all the players are aware that the National football championship title was last won by the State 54 years ago and it would require a lot of determination and resolve to regain supremacy.

Strong comeback

Karnataka is back in the news for reaching the Santosh Trophy final after 46 years and is now looking to emulate what Mysore achieved in the 1968-69 season, the last time when the coveted trophy reached Bengaluru.

According to Raju, the Karnataka side is reaping the harvest of the improvements made by the teams in the Bangalore Super Division league.

"We have done our scouting based on the performance of the players in the Bangalore Super League. The result we see now is the good work of the coaches of the Super Division teams like Bengaluru FC, Sporting Club Bengaluru and Kickstart FC which have mostly contributed in the formation of the team," Raju said.

Good tidings: Scouting for the State team was done based on the players' showing in the Bangalore Super League. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Take the case of the versatile defender Robin Singh, who contributed in two of the three goals of Karnataka's 3-1 win against Services in the semifinals on Wednesday.

The player came up through the youth system of Bengaluru FC and that was evident in his performance as he scored a nice goal from a free-kick and later essayed a long throw that helped his colleague Sunil Kumar to make it 3-1.

Robin's teammates like Jacob John and Ankith Padmanabhan, who form the nucleus of the team's offensive plan, have all come through the youth development initiatives of the clubs like Bengaluru FC and are proving their mettle in the decisive stages of the National championship.

New Invitation Cup unveiled

RACING

Cyrus J. Madan
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Turf Club launched Indian racing's most glamorous and exciting weekend at a media conference held at the Shangri-La on Thursday evening.

Shiv Kumar Kheny, chairman Turf Authorities Of India and BTC, welcomed the founders of the Royal Arion Club who have become the first international sponsors of the Invitation Cup.

Six-sided trophy

Mr. Kheny, along with James O'Donnell, Hugh O'Donnell and Suresh Papadugu, the founders of The Royal Arion Club, jointly unveiled the new Invitation Cup which unlike its predecessor is now a six-sided trophy, replacing the five sided one that had been there since 1963.

The big prize: Shiv Kumar Kheny, Hugh O'Donnell, James O'Donnell and Suresh Papadugu after showcasing the new-look Invitation Cup on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The stage is now set for what promises to be two days of racing at it's very best, with the Royal Arion Club Indian Turf Invitation Cup holding centre-stage on Sunday.

City Of Blessing claims feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer N. Rawal's City Of Blessing (Santosh Raj N.R. up) claimed the upper division of the Poet's Dream Plate, the feature event of the concluding day's races held here on Thursday (Mar. 2). The winner is owned by Mr. K. Thribhuvan Reddy.

1. ONTARIO PLATE: TOP DIAMOND (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Power Ranger (R.S. Jodha) 2, Keep Faith (Afroz Khan) 3 and Protocol (G. Naresh) 4. Not run: Burgundy Black and Pedro Planet. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 2. 1m, 13.18s. ₹41 (w). 13, 14 and 43 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 77, SHW: 15 and 20, FP: 143, Q: 51, Tanala: 893. Favourite: Power Ranger. Owner: Mr. Md. Sultan. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

2. WAR CRY PLATE: ICE BLUE (R.S. Jodha) 1, Toffee (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Santa Barbara (Afroz Khan) 3 and Decoy (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Not run: Stunning Art and Alcahol Free. 3-3/4, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 26.94s. ₹36 (w), 16, 15 and 17 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 63, SHW: 17 and 17, FP: 104, Q: 55, Tanala: 433. Favourite: Santa Barbara. Owner: Mr. Al Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

3. CONQUERING HERO PLATE (DIV. II): SPECTACULAR CRUISE (G. Naresh) 1, Royal Pal (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Amalfitana (Ajay Kumar) 3 and Aerial Combat (Gaurav Singh) 4. Not run: Mireya. Shd, 3/4 and Nk. 1m, 26.74s. ₹159 (w), 35, 32 and 22 (p). SHP: 88, THP: 75, SHW: 64 and 82, FP: 1,629, Q: 496, Tanala: 8,800. Favourite: Salisbury. Owner: Mr. P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. RAFAH PLATE (DIV. I): THE HAMBONE (Sonu Kumar) 1, Saint Emilion (Shivansh) 2, Pancho (Abhay Singh) 3 and Creative Art (Santosh Raj) 4. Yaletown and Track Blazer. 2-1/4, 4-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 6.28s. ₹16 (w), 10 12 and 13 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 32, SHW: 12 and 20, FP: 28, Q: 26, Tanala: 96. Favourite: The Hambone. Owner: Mr. Maddali Sai Kumar. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

5. POET'S DREAM PLATE (DIV. I): CITY OF BLESSING (Santosh Raj N.R.) 1, Miss Marvellous (Afroz Khan) 2, D Yes Boss (Mohit Singh) 2 and N R I Sport (Ashad Asbar) 4. Not run: Miss Little Angel, Star Babe and Despang. 1/2, Deadheat and 2. 1m, 25.59s. ₹88 (w), 23, 21 and 22 (p). SHP: 38 and 40, THP: Refunded, SHW: 52, 10 and 21, FP: 317 and 340, Q: 157 and 196, Tanala: 2,309 and 3,849. Favourite: Malaala. Owner: Mr. K. Thribhuvan Reddy. Trainer: N. Rawal.

6. RAFAH PLATE (DIV. II): DELHI HEIGHTS (D.S. Deora) 1, Exclusive Luck (Deepak Singh) 2, Inderdhanush (Abhay Singh) 3 and Shubhrak (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Not run: Chica Bonita. Nk, 2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 6.59s. ₹49 (w), 14, 18 and 17 (p). SHP: 63, THP: 43, SHW: 23 and 41, FP: 442, Q: 231, Tanala: 2,269. Favourite: Classical Music. Owner: Mr. Rohit Gupta rep. Rolli Stud Dairy & Agri. Farm. Trainer: Magan Singh.

7. CONQUERING HERO PLATE (DIV. I): BLAST IN CLASS (Santosh Raj N.R.) 1, Quality Warrior (Afroz Khan) 2, Sucker Punch (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Good Tidings (Mohit Singh) 4. Not run: Advance Guard. 2, 2 and 1. 1m, 25.96s. ₹44 (w), 16, 14 and 21 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 62, SHW: 23 and 20, FP: 121, Q: 58, Tanala: 718. Favourite: Quality Warrior. Owners: Mr. K.S.V. Prasad Raju, Mr. Narendra Vithaldas Shah, Mr. Giri Prathamesh Mahadev & Mr. Mohit Jaju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

8. POET'S DREAM PLATE (DIV. II): N R I SUN (Abhay Singh) 1, Angelita (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Morior Invictus (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Pinatubo (D.S. Deora) 4. Nk, 2 and Shd. 1m, 25.85s. ₹145 (w), 56, 52 and 27 (p). SHP: 200, THP: 66, SHW: 78 and 118, FP: 2,299, Q: 2,046, Tanala: 28, 280. Favourite: See My Spark. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

NOTE: In the last 100m of the race, jockey Rafique Sk fell from his mount Sun Dancer, as his saddle slipped, and he was taken to the hospital for treatment.

9. DANGEROUS DAN PLATE: LIFE IS GOOD (Md. Ismail) 1, Jack Daniel (Jodha R S) 2, It's My Life (Gaurav Singh) 2 and Janasu (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Not run: My Way Or Highway, Special Effort and Ilango. 7-1/4, Deadheat and Hd. 1m, 40.18s. ₹24 (w), 15, 14 and 16 (p). SHP: 17 and 20, THP: Refunded. SHW: 21, 10 and 14, FP: 52 and 27, Q: 11 and 45, Tanala: 93 and 124. Favourite: Life Is Good. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹87,711 (1 tkt.) & 30%: 1,044 (36 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 1,27,331 (5 tkts.) & 30%: 13,642 (20 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: (i) 10,021 (16 tkts.), (ii) 8,182 (18 tkts.); Treble: (i) 2,351 (10 tkts.), (ii) 488 (97 tkts.), (iii) 3,004 (30 tkts.).

Zekic ousts top seed James Duckworth

PUNE CHALLENGER

Sports Bureau

Miljan Zekic of Serbia edged out top seed James Duckworth of Australia 4-6, 6-4,7-6(2) in the pre-quarterfinals of the PMR Open $130,000 Challenger tennis tournament at the Balewadi Stadium in Pune on Thursday.

The champion of the last two tournaments in Chennai and Bengaluru, Max Purcell of Australia stayed on course with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Dimitar Kuzmanov of Bulgaria.

In doubles, Mukund Sasikumar and Vishnu Vardhan made the semifinals with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Calum Puttergill and DAne Sweeny of Australia.

Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Sundar Prashanth also made the semifinals by beating the fourth seeds Petr Nouza and Purav Raja for the loss of four games.

The results:

Singles (pre-quarterfinals):
Miljan Zekic (Srb) bt James Duckworth (Aus) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(2); Harold Mayot (Fra) bt Maximilian Neuchrist (Aut) 6-4 (retired); Max Purcell (Aus) bt Dimitar Kuzmanov (Bul) 6-2, 6-4; Francesco Maestrelli (Ita) bt Dane Sweeny (Aus) 6-7(2), 6-3, 7-5.

Doubles (quarterfinals):
Mukund Sasikumar & Vishnu Vardhan bt Calum Puttergill & Dane Sweeny (Aus) 6-2, 6-3; Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) bt Boris Butulija (Srb) & Prajnesh Gunneswaran 7-5, 6-4; Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Petr Nouza (Cze) & Purav Raja 6-2, 6-2; Maximilian Neuchrist (Aut) & Arjun Kadhe bt Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 6-1, 6-3.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

7.45 In percentage, the unemployment rate in India, according to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The rate has increased to 7.45% in February from 7.14% in January 2023. The rural unemployment rate has risen to 7.23% from 6.48% in the previous month, while the urban unemployment rate has declined to 7.93% from 8.55%. Reuters

20,000 In ₹, the penalty students of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) can now face for holding dharnas, according to its latest rules. It can even lead to cancellation of admission. Students can also be slapped with a fine of up to ₹30,000 for resorting to violence at the university. PTI

7.4 In percentage, the projected growth in Jharkhand's economy in FY24, as the State is on the road to recovery despite being battered by the pandemic, the State economic survey informed. The State managed the fallout of the COVID-19 situation efficiently and as a result, the decline in its GDP was 5.5%, which is less than the country's 6.6% decline during the period. PTI

70 The percentage of the total energy requirement of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation plans to cover through solar energy by providing solar panels at all elevated stations of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor. The corridor will have one-fifth of the fossil fuel consumption compared to road vehicles. PTI

23 The percentage of Germany's population that are immigrants or children of immigrants, according to Germany's Federal Statistics Office report. Around 18.9 million people are reported to have immigrated to the country since 1950, though these figures are from 2021 and do not include the Ukrainians who came after the invasion. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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In turmoil: Police fire tear gas to disperse supporters of the National People's Power (NPP) party during a protest seeking local council election, in Colombo on February 26. AFP

The aftermath of Sri Lanka's economic crash

As the island nation eagerly awaits a provisional IMF package to chart its path to economic stability, it is currently witnessing a new wave of protests, mainly by workers and professionals, as people's economic hardships increase. The government also faces criticism over the recent postponement of local body elections

WORLD INSIGHT

Meera Srinivasan

For nearly a year now, many in Sri Lanka have been fervently chanting three letters – IMF (International Monetary Fund).

As the country's familiar balance of payments problem escalated last year, citizens experienced crippling shortages and painfully long power cuts. They took to the streets in a staggering mass protest and ousted the Rajapaksas, who they held responsible for their suffering. The chant, seeking IMF support, persisted through these dramatic developments.

In July 2022, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected President, through an urgent parliamentary vote. One of the first tasks he set for himself was to negotiate an IMF deal to resurrect the country's battered economy. Sri Lanka entered a staff level agreement with the Fund on September 1, 2022.

Looking for a bail-out

Mr. Wickremesinghe recently announced that his government had completed 15 tasks prescribed by the IMF, in preparation for its assistance. The IMF's provisional $2.9 billion package will come through by end of this month, he said.

In fact, Sri Lanka had hoped to tap it by the end of last year, or at least in January this year, but the process had dragged on. One of the main reasons for the delay had to do with written financing assurances from China, Japan, and India, Sri Lanka's top three bilateral creditors. The IMF had made its programme contingent on their cooperation. India took the lead and sent its assurances to the Fund this January, with the Paris Club group of creditors, which includes Japan, following suit. China's written financing assurances alone are pending.

Should the IMF package kick in later this month, either with China coming on board, or with other official lenders expressing confidence for the Fund to go ahead and clear it, Sri Lanka will see it as a critical milestone in its economic recovery. Evidently, a $2.9 billion-Extended Fund Facility, over a period of four years, is not big money for Sri Lanka. Even after streamlining imports to save dollars, the island nation spends well over a billion dollars every month on essential imports alone. Exports totalled $978 million in January, pointing to an enduring trade deficit.

However, an ongoing IMF programme helps Sri Lanka become more credit worthy in the eye of global lenders, be it multilateral agencies like the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank, bilateral partners, or private creditors. The bankrupt nation that defaulted on its $51-billion external debt last year hopes that with an IMF programme, it can borrow again. After falling into a cycle of indiscriminate borrowing, especially in the last 15 years, Sri Lanka finds itself in a position where its problem, and its solution, look eerily similar at this point.

Tackling corruption

What could potentially make a difference this time is the IMF's emphasis on fixing Sri Lanka's corruption vulnerabilities, which has been a rallying point for many Sri Lankan economists and policy analysts.

It is corruption that led Sri Lanka to this precipice in the first place, they argue. Corruption, coupled with the state's tendency to implement "populist" welfare programmes that are "unsustainable", made the country's economy fragile over time, in their view. So much so that 16 of the past IMF agreements could not turn the tables for Sri Lanka.

Critics of the IMF, a very small minority in Sri Lanka, see an IMF package as part of the problem, not the solution. They worry that the austerity measures that come attached with it will be a deadly blow to the people, especially the country's working class that is worst affected in this crisis. Apart from that, there is no raging public debate on, or popular resistance to, the IMF within Sri Lanka unlike in say, Argentina in recent times. On the IMF package, the average Sri Lankan is preoccupied more with when it might come through, rather than whether the country really needs it.

With inflation persisting over 50%, half of the families in Sri Lanka are forced to reduce the amount they feed their children, Save the Children found in a recent survey

Even worker unions, currently protesting against the sharp increase in taxes and utility bills – introduced by the government in anticipation of the IMF programme – are resisting only the specific policy measures that are hurting them. Otherwise, they appear reconciled to yet another IMF-led reform agenda, an "inevitable, bitter pill", as it is often projected.

Food insecurity

Over the last year, poor families have been forced to reduce their food intake drastically. Soaring prices have kept eggs, fish, and meat out of reach for many, raising concern among medical practitioners over nutrition levels in the community. With inflation persisting over 50%, half of the families in Sri Lanka are forced to reduce the amount they feed their children, humanitarian organisation Save the Children found in a recent survey. Additionally, they warned of a "full-blown hunger crisis". The World Food Programme, in its January update, estimated that 33% of Sri Lankan households are food insecure.

Irrespective of when the IMF programme kicks in, and how much more money Sri Lanka can borrow after that, it will be a rather rocky road before possible recovery.

The country is currently witnessing a new wave of protests, mainly by workers and professionals, as people's economic hardships increase. The government also faces criticism for the recent postponement of local body elections, even as multiple surveys point to a significant rise in support for opposition parties. But for those looking for policy coherence, such as the business community, the Wickremesinghe administration symbolises a version of stability. Democracy can wait, they contend, since economic recovery is urgent.

For many others, Mr. Wickremesinghe, who lost his mandate in the last general election and rose to power with the support of the widely despised Rajapaksas' party, represents continuity of a political order they fought to change. They see election as a vital barometer that will reflect this sentiment.

Meanwhile, how Sri Lanka charts its path of economic recovery will be evident in the coming months. Nearly half a century after liberalising its economy – Sri Lanka was the first in the region to do so – the country has confronted some fundamental questions, about how much it produces, how much it still imports, and how little its export basket has diversified in all these years.

These are questions that go beyond the problem of corruption. These are also questions that have a bearing on the country's overall progress, which can't be measured without factoring in the extent of inequality.

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2019, conducted before the pandemic and Sri Lanka's crisis, showed an increase in the Gini coefficient, a measure of income distribution, to 0.46, reflecting widening inequality. The IMF has said that a key element of its programme would be to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the poor by raising social spending and improve the coverage and targeting of a social safety net.

As the government goes ahead with its austerity measures, it remains to be seen if it can support its most vulnerable citizens.

This is the first part of a series of articles looking at Sri Lanka's economic recovery and political course.

THE GIST

In July 2022, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected President, through an urgent parliamentary vote. One of the first tasks he set for himself was to negotiate an IMF deal to resurrect the country's battered economy.

The IMF has placed a lot of emphasis on fixing Sri Lanka's corruption vulnerabilities, which has been a rallying point for many Sri Lankan economists and policy analysts. It is corruption that led Sri Lanka to this precipice in the first place, they argue. According to them, corruption, coupled with the state's tendency to implement "populist" welfare programmes that are "unsustainable", made the country's economy fragile over time.

Over the last year, poor families have been forced to reduce their food intake drastically. Soaring prices have kept eggs, fish, and meat out of reach for many, raising concern among medical practitioners over nutrition levels in the community.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

From left to right: A still from *EO* and *The Elephant Whisperers*. AP

The charm of coexistence: how animals act as a metaphor for social decay

Ahead of the Academy Awards, a look at the films in the fray that carefully demolish anthropocentric and majoritarian biases and how they remind us of animistic interventions in popular cinema

Anuj Kumar

Giving a fillip to the abiding charm of the man-animal relationship on celluloid, at least four films, that have made it to the last stage of the 95th Academy Awards, showcase interdependence of species as a metaphor to indicate the perils of the ecological and social decay that are threatening to tear the ecosystem apart. And, along the way, they demolish the anthropocentric biases that have accumulated in society over the years.

Alienation and vulnerability

A stunning piece of creative non-fiction, Shaunak Sen's *All That Breathes*, one of the nominees in the Best Documentary Feature Film category follows two enterprising brothers, Muhammad Saud, and Nadeem Shehzad, who pick up injured black kites, falling from the polluted skies of the political capital of India, and nurse them back to health.

The film never frontally engages with the sectarian violence in Delhi in the aftermath of the Citizenship Amendment Act but the growing social alienation of Muslims, captured through stray sounds of television news and announcements, is an integral part of the documentary whose credo is that we belong to the community of air and that one should not differentiate between all that breathes.

One of the reasons that the brothers started their work was because the largest bird hospital in the city did not treat birds of prey. The black kites were left to die because they consumed meat. But the brothers' devotion has a mystical side as they believe that the raptors eat the sins of those that feed them. As children, the brothers watched black kites draw patterns across the sky while their elders tossed meat upwards for the birds to feed on – an act believed to earn Muslims sawab or the pleasure of the Almighty.

The film talks about how the use of terms such as termites and rats to address people of a religion or social strata has turned a political issue into one of hygiene. The brothers' care for the birds is juxtaposed with their own situation in the country hit by a manufactured majoritarian fear. Their environmental concerns and ambitions are not separate from their social identity. Both the birds and brothers are constantly vigilant, trying to evolve despite being fatigued by a shortage of resources. Without underlining it, Sen's meditative work, which uses techniques that are usually used to orchestrate fiction, reflects on their vulnerability and resilience and the lyrical bond that they have forged over the years to save each other.

It reminds us of the kinship between Iqbal and his eagle Allah Rakha in Manmohan Desai's *Coolie* (1983) where the protagonist combined a sickle and hammer and the Islamic symbol of high honour to destroy the opposition.

From the eyes of an animal

This man-animal bond shines through in Polish filmmaker Jerzy Skolimowski's *EO*, one of the contenders for the Best International Film Award. Told from an animal's gaze, it is about a circus donkey who is groomed by a young female artist Kasandra. The animal reciprocates the care with unconditional love which conventionally could only be experienced by humans. When animal rights activists separate Eo from Kasandra, the donkey's life is reduced to a long ordeal. In Skolimowski's universe, Eo is central to the story and the human characters are dispensable, very much like the animal strands in human stories. In its treatment, *EO* is avant-garde, draws from Robert Bresson's *Au Hasard Balthazar* (1966), and provides a metaphysical and sublime experience to the audience. But at the same time, it strangely reminds one of a childhood film, *Azadi Ki Or* (1986), which told the story from the point of view of a pair of monkeys who are used by a selfish street performer. He tortures them to earn money for him through their various acts. Unlike Eo, the monkeys had no love lost for the madari and the pair tricks the man and breaks free from his bondage. What follows are some simple and goofy adventures that the monkeys go through but at the end, we are left with a disturbing sense that they disliked humanity. That feeling resurfaced after watching *EO*.

The mother of elephants

Kartiki Gonsalves's *The Elephant Whisperers*, nominated in the Best Documentary Short Subject category, is a gentler take on the man-animal conflict that gradually grows on you. Beyond the enchanting visuals of the verdant forest at different times of the year, the warmth between baby elephants and their tribal caregivers provides an interesting insight into how the lines between species blur. For the Kattunayakans, the well-being of the forest is all that matters. They live off the forest but also protect it. Like the brothers in *All That Breathes*, there is a divine connection here as well, for Bomman and Bellie see Lord Ganesha in the elephants they nurture. The emotional interdependence is also not too different. When Bellie's ex-husband was killed by a tiger, she began to fear the place she grew up in. Similarly, when Raghu was separated from his herd after his mother died of electrocution, he was badly injured and forlorn. Bellie says when she first met Raghu, he was tugging at her clothes like a child and she instantly decided to give the motherless child a chance. She sees her daughter whom she lost in him. Towards the end, she says, Raghu helped her find the voice that she lost to grief for now everyone sees her as the mother of elephants.

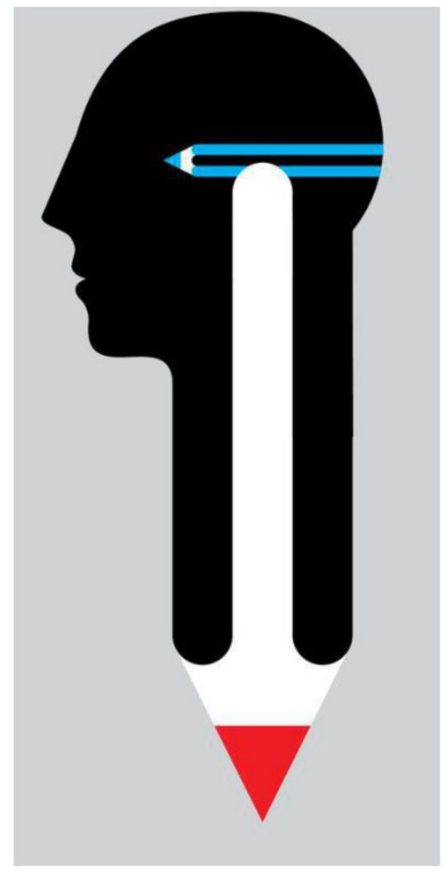
As Sen zooms out of the everydayness of Saud and Nadeem's engagement with raptors to shoot life writ large on the canvas of the city, Gonsalves's gaze also moves out from the vast Madumalai forest a couple of times to show Bomman, Bellie, and Raghu's place in the heartless world outside for whom both are part of some sort of visual safari. It tells us how far we have come from the innocent *Haathi Mere Saathi* (1971) days.

In popular cinema

Similarly, S.S. Rajamouli's *RRR* is more than just the electric "Naatu Naatu". The terrific scene where Bheema unleashes wild animals on the unsuspecting colonial masters is not just visually rich but also carries an important message. For those who could see, the Gond girl Malli becomes a symbol of the natural wealth of the tribals that continues to be ravaged by those in power for their vested interests and when they retaliate, they are termed as Naxalites.

The tribal who lives under the assumed identity of a Muslim is brutalised by a British officer like an animal. Perhaps, because he becomes a double outcast. So, he joins forces with the beasts to pay them back in the same coin. When Bheema traps a tiger in the jungle, he kisses it on his forehead, forging an inter-specific bond that can't be described in words.

Animals have played critical roles in popular Hindi films and it is perhaps rooted in the way Indians traditionally worship nature. Perhaps, that is why *Life of Pi* has to have an Indian protagonist. In *Gai Aur Gori* (1973), Jaya Bhaduri has a cow as her confidante and in *Sholay* (1975), Hema Malini as Basanti uses the analogy of her mare Dhanno to make a feminist point: "If Dhanno could pull a cart despite being a female, why can't Basanti ride it?" In Rekha's *Khoon Bhari Maang* (1988), it is the animals who recognise their master when even her kids fail to discern their mother in a new face. In *Dil Dhadakne Do* (2015), the bullmastiff, voiced by Aamir Khan and penned by Javed Akhtar, presents the audience perspective of the dysfunctional family. Over the years, like the shape-shifting snakes of *Nagin*, *Nagina*, and *Doodh Ka Karz*, the narratives have taken new forms but the idea lives on as we have watched recently in *Bhediya* and *Lakadbaggha*.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. N. Vijaya Seshu of X Class, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Fertilizer city (505210) wants to know the difference between 'many a time' and 'many times'."

"Both mean the same. 'Many a time' is rather literary. Ordinarily we say 'many times'. "Many a' is used with a singular noun though it has the plural sense.

Many a man behaves like that.

'Many' is used with plural noun.

Many men behave like that."

"Mr. V. L Parthasarathy of Nanganallur, Madras, wants to know the meaning of the expression 'Sisyphean struggle'."

"A Sisyphean or Sisyphian task is an unending and unprofitable work. A Sisyphean task is 'everlastingly laborious'. In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was a king of Corinth. In hell, he was asked to roll a heavy stone uphill and when it rolled down, he was asked to roll it up again. He had to repeat it over and over again. Such a task is painful, laborious and fruitless. So a Sisyphean task is of this nature."

"Dr. K. Naganna of Kumool Medical College, Kumool, wants to know the meaning of 'left-handed compliment'."

"A left-handed compliment is an ambiguous, double-edged compliment of doubtful sincerity.

I must congratulate you as I hear you have stopped beating your wife.

For a politician, he is very decent."

"Mr. Venkatesh of Janakpuri, New Delhi, wants to know whether it is all right to ask the question 'Has the bell gone?'"

"Among other meanings, 'go' means 'to emit sound'. In this sense, 'gone' is used. The sentence is correct."

"Mr. S. V. Satyanarayana of Kowur wants to know the meaning of 'carte blanche'."

" 'Carte blanche' means full authority or freedom given to one to do what he considers desirable.

He was given carte blanche to plan and construct the school.

He was given carte blanche to organise the International Seminar on the Environment.

It is pronounced 'kaat blansh'. The 'a' in 'carte' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'part'. The final 'e' is silent. The 'r' is also silent. The 'a' in 'blanche' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'part', 'ch' is pronounced like the 'sh' in 'ship'. The final 'e' is silent. It is a French expression which means 'a blank document'."

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THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

All member states of the United Nations observe March 3 as World Wildlife Day. A quiz on the day and the fauna and flora of our wonderful world

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

This date was chosen as it was the day CITES came into being 50 years ago. The logo of CITES is a stylised representation of which herbivore?

QUESTION 2

Which Asian nation mooted the idea of the WWD to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora?

QUESTION 3

Which organisation publishes the Red List of Threatened Species, the 'world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species'?

QUESTION 4

What type of animal is the Giant Atlas barbel, endemic to Morocco, that was reclassified as extinct by the IUCN in 2022?

QUESTION 5

Of which animal does China have full ownership and the species seen in zoos in other countries are technically 'on lease'?

QUESTION 6

What is the claim to fame of 'Hyperion' located in California?

Visual question:

What is the theme for this year's WWD that has been blanked out in this poster?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This 1913 novel by D.H. Lawrence contains a frequently quoted use of this English dialect word which has a meaning 'unusually susceptible to cold weather'. **Ans: *Sons and Lovers*, 'Nesh'**

2. This novel was published in 1915 and its sequel was published in 1920. **Ans: *The Rainbow, Women in Love***

3. In 1964, the bookseller Ranjit Udeshi in Bombay was prosecuted for selling an unexpurgated copy of this Lawrence book. This legal test was later mandated to determine if a book constitutes obscenity. **Ans: *Lady Chatterley's Lover;* Hicklin Test**

4. Corasmin and the Parrots are part of this collection of essays. **Ans: *Mornings in Mexico***

5. This is a British biographical film about Lawrence and his wife. **Ans: *Priest of Love***

Visual: The name of this painting. **Ans: The Lawrence Tree by Georgia O'Keeffe**

Early Birds: Abhishek Kumar Mishra| V. Siddhartha| Husna Vayalil| Dikra| Renu Susan Jacob

Word of the day

Fillip: anything that tends to arouse

Synonym: bonus

Usage: *His endorsement to the company gave a much needed fillip in sales.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fillippro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɪlɪp/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'